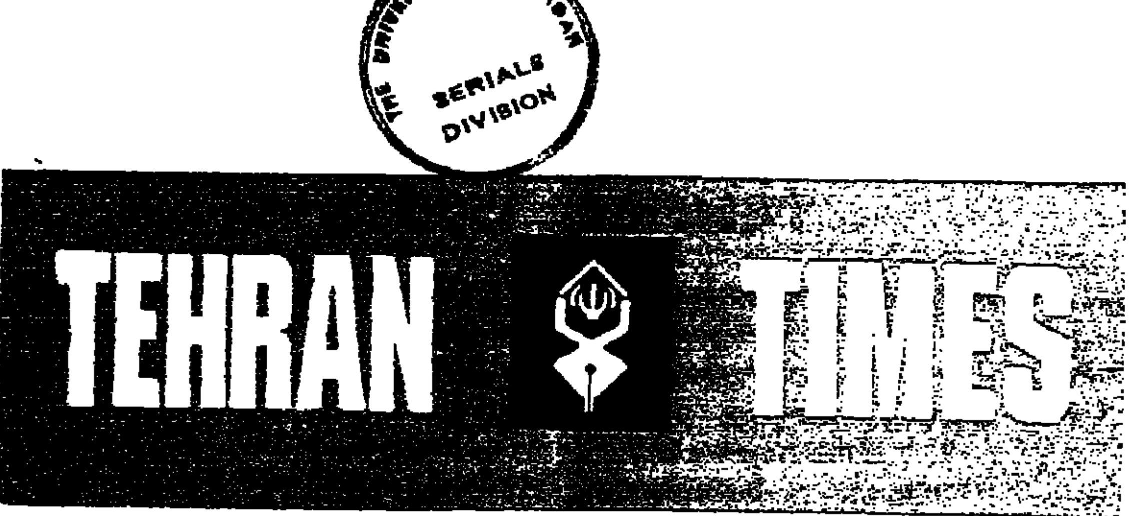
TOMORROW HISTORY



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Erbakan to Visit Iran, Four Asian Countries

ANKARA — Turkey's new Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan will pay his first official visit to Iran since taking up his job in June, his office announced Monday.

He will fly to Tehran on Saturday at the start of a tour which will also take him to four Asian countries.

He will have talks with Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and other top officials before heading off from August 12-20 to Pakistan, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. (AFP)

Army Expels 13 Pro-Islamic Officers

ANKARA — Thirteen officers were expelled from the Turkish Armed Forces on the grounds that they had been involved in Islamic fundamentalist activities, the Turkish press said Monday.

The decision, also approved by the new Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, was made at an annual meeting of top commanders that ended Sunday, the newspapers said.

Erbakan, who had criticized the sacking of so-called fundamentalist officers from the Armed Forces before coming to power in late June, had no objection to the decision. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Washington Increasing Tension by Bullying Iran

DUBAI — Washington is heightening the risk of another war in the Persian Gulf by bullying Iran and baselessly accusing it of backing terrorist attacks on U.S. targets, newspapers in the region said Monday.

"The (Persian) Gulf region cannot tolerate any new wars or new military operations," *Al-Watan* newspaper of Qatar said, referring to the U.S.-led Persian Gulf war in 1991 to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

"It is imperative to stop this escalation in the region and accusations hurled (at Iran) so that things do not degenerate into hasty decisions and imprudent measures," said the paper, which is close to the government.

Tehran has accused Washington of seeking to justify a military operation against Iran by accusing it of supporting terrorism.

Al-Raay newspaper, which also reflects the Qatari government view, expressed its "great astonishment at the campaign provoked by the United States which threatens to strike Iran."

The paper said it was "a dangerous escalation and a premeditated attempt to increase tension in the (Persian) Gulf."

Washington "had better wait for the results of the investigation" into the explosion that downed a TWA airliner near New York three weeks ago "instead of putting the region at the gates of a third world war," the daily said.

The Gulf News, an English-language newspaper in the United Arab Emirates, said Washington had failed to provide any proof of Iran's involvement in the TWA or the truck bombing that killed 19 U.S. airmen at a Saudi base on June 25.

"It seems as if American investigators are gathering facts to fit a predetermined conclusion," the *Gulf News* said.

"Bullying and threatening neighbors and suspected 'enemies' will do nothing to gain any respect or credibility from its allies," it said. (AFP)

Assad, Hrawi Meet in Damascus

DAMASCUS — Syrian President Hafez al-Assad held talks with his Lebanese counterpart Elias Hrawi here on Monday, a presidential spokesman said.

The two leaders met first with Syrian Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam before retiring for a private closed door session, said the spokesman.

The meeting follows the weekend visit to Damascus by Jordan's King Hussein which was aimed at breathing new life into the stalled Middle East peace process with Israel.

Officials said the king floated a "Lebanon-first" deal, put forward by new Israeli rightwing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, during his talks with Assad.

Under the terms of the proposal Israel and Syria would break their deadlock by agreeing on a settlement in Lebanon where both countries have troops.

Assad and Hrawi hold regular face-to-face meetings. Hrawi last visited Damascus on July 17 when he discussed the peace process and Lebanon's upcoming elections with the Syrian leader. (AFP)

Clinton Signs Bill for Tougher Sanctions on Iran, Libya

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton signed a bill Monday to tighten sanctions against foreign companies investing in the Iranian and Libyan oil and gas industries.

The bill threatens sanctions on non-U.S. companies which invest more than $40 million annually in those Iranian or Libyan energy industries.

Tensions have been growing between the United States and Iran especially after administration officials baselessly hinted that Iranian-trained terrorists could be responsible for the bombing in Saudi Arabia at a military complex that killed 19 Americans.

Thus far, the U.S. administration has had a three-pronged effort: pushing allies to isolate countries believed responsible for aiding terrorists, beefing up antiterrorist activities by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and better security at U.S. airports.

Representatives of the families of those killed on Panam Flight 103, which was blown up over Scotland in 1988, have been in- (Contd on Pg.14)

France, Britain Warn of Reprisals Over U.S. Sanctions Bill

PARIS — France warned Monday of retaliation over threatened U.S. sanctions on non-U.S. companies trading with states Washington baselessly accuses of sponsoring terrorism such as Iran, was signed into law by President Bill Clinton.

Paris remains "determined that no French interests are affected and that any damage caused does not remain unanswered," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Yves Doutriaux.

He was referring to a bill was signed on Monday by President Bill Clinton threatening sanctions on non-U.S. companies that invest more than $40 million annually in Iran's or Libya's oil and gas industries.

The so-called D'amato law, Lamed after its main author Republican Senator Alfonse D'amato, is the subject of tension between Washington and its European partners.

"We are working actively with our European Union partners to prepare appropriate responses to the implementation of this law," the ministry spokesman added.

"We have repeatedly taken the opportunity to indicate that the dispositions of this legislation contravene the principles of the World Trade Organization and the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)."

"We hope sense will prevail and that the American authorities will find a way to stop short of creating, by unilateral measures which have a multilateral impact, a particularly dangerous precedent for the safety and development of world trade."

Europe imports about 20 percent of its oil from Iran and Libya.

Britain on Monday reiterated its opposition to U.S. attempts to force other countries to impose economic sanctions against Iran and Libya, saying it could not accept U.S. pressure.

U.S. President Bill Clinton signed a bill Monday threatening sanctions on non-U.S. companies that invest more than $40 million annually in Iran's or Libya's oil and gas industries.

"We have vigorously lobbied against this legislation both bilaterally and with our European Union partners," the Foreign Office said in a statement. (Contd on Pg.14)

Israel Ready for Immediate Peace Talks With Syria

AMMAN — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said here Monday that his country was ready for immediate and comprehensive peace talks with Syria.

"We are prepared to engage in peace negotiations with Syria on all outstanding matters," he told a press conference, adding that such talks could begin "in the immediate future."

"The immediate security concern for us with Syria is southern Lebanon ... as you know, we have no claims, no territorial claims on Lebanon whatsoever," he said after a meeting with King Hussein.

But Netanyahu stressed that Israel's aim was an overall peace accord with Damascus. "Our purpose is to achieve a formal peace with Syria. It is not merely to have a peace process," he said.

"We have in fact a variety of issues," said the prime minister.

Jordan's King Hussein stressed here Monday that the holy city of Bait-ul-Moqaddas, a thorny issue between Israel and the Palestinians, should not be redivided under any peace deal.

"It never occurred to us since 1967 that the city, in the context (Contd on Pg.14)

Last-Ditch Talks to Find Mostar Solution

MOSTAR, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Intense last-minute talks resumed Monday to try to break the deadlock Mostar with just hours to go before the European Union decided whether to pull out of the divided southern city.

Bosnian Croats, Muslims and EU officials were in touch in a bid to end a boycott by Croat hardliners of the city council and breathe new life into the Bosnian peace process.

In Brussels meanwhile, the European Union pushed back a deadline on deciding whether to pull out of the city from midday to 1700 GMT, giving all sides a last chance to find a solution to the crisis.

EU officials in Mostar, who asked not to be named, however said any decision on withdrawing from the southern Bosnian city was unlikely in the next 24 hours.

Mostar's June 30 municipal elections, the first in post-war Bosnia, were regarded as a key test for nationwide polls set for September 14, and the failure to make politics work will deal a shattering blow to the wider peace process.

Dragan Gasic, the EU spokesman in Mostar, said the Croats had handed in a new working dossier. It contained nothing that had not already been discussed and rejected, he added, but was nevertheless delivered to the Muslim side.

He said the EU's 15 member states had been advised of the situation.

In Brussels, an EU spokesman said the union had extended its deadline in the hope of finding a "last-minute" solution that would allow joint Croat-Muslim administration of the divided city.

The move came after Germany asked for Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic to be given more time to win round Croat hardliners. (AFP)

Muslims Should Hold Fast to Islam



TASKHIRI

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Sects has taken big strides toward materializing the idea of bringing about unity among different Islamic schools of thought, Head of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Ali Taskhiri told the *Tehran Times*.

Speaking on the sideline of the 9th International Conference on Islamic Unity, Hojjatoleslam Taskhiri said that the conference provided the representatives of all the Islamic schools of thought with the opportunity to exchange views on different Islamic issues.

The forum has succeeded in its effort, underlining the importance of dialogue among different Islamic sects, Taskhiri added.

Holding such conferences in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Jordan and Morocco underlines the fact that the forum has been successful in its mission to bring Islamic sects closer to each other.

Sunni and Shia Muslims have commonalities in different areas such as Islamic moral values, he said, adding they also share 95 percent of social and individual teachings of Islam.

He said that Muslims should (Contd on Pg.14)

Ciller Aide Says Talks With PKK Possible

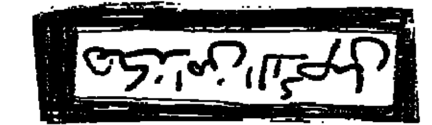
ANKARA — Turkey could open an indirect dialogue with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to end the Kurdish problem if the separatist group rejects armed fighting, a senior aide to Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller said Monday.

"We're not for sitting on the negotiating table with an armed gang. But if they (the PKK) leave aside arms, then there can be indirect talks," said Mehmet Golhan, deputy leader of Ciller' conservative True Path Party, according to the Anatolia news agency.

This was the first time an official close to the government openly mentioned the possibility of holding talks — although indirectly — with the PKK.

(Contd on Pg.14)





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In the Name of Allah

And how many a town that We destroyed, so Our punishment came to it by night or while they slept at midday.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:4)

OPINION

The Iranian Connection: Can Clinton Save Himself?

The bill which seeks to punish non-American companies that invest $40 million or more a year in Iran or Libya's oil or gas sectors was signed by President Clinton yesterday. The notorious bill named after its sponsor, Republican senator Alfonso d'Amato, is actually a follow-up of the failed unilateral economic embargo imposed by the U.S. on Iran in June, 1995.

The bill, already a law as of this writing, is another desperate attempt on the part of Washington to beef up its sagging image abroad as a loser in its fight against terrorism. Unable to explain growing domestic terrorist activities such as that which it suspected in the Atlanta games, it now seeks to point to masterminds abroad.

But the U.S. has again deceived itself by thinking that it can still convince its international partners to rally behind its unilateral moves. The fact is that America's reputation as a "bully" is already so notorious as to render its credibility gap beyond repair. While it used to be the only country capable of acting on its own without being held accountable for its actions in the international arena, it is now a pariah even amongst its Western allies.

To prove the point, European Union members have responded unbelievably fast to the D'Amato bill. France has warned of "reprisals." In the words of French Foreign Ministry Spokesman Yves Doutriaux: "France is determined that no French interests are affected and that any damage caused does not remain unanswered."

The British Foreign Office in statement on Monday said, "We have vigorously lobbied against this legislation both bilaterally and with our European Union partners." The statement also called on the Britain's EU partners to consult urgently on considering retaliatory measures against the U.S.

The D'Amato bill, now signed into law, is intrinsically silly from the standpoint of international law. However, from the standpoint of implementation alone, how can a local law be enforced abroad? It is to be presumed, of course, that in cases of violation, the U.S. will have to seek redress from an international tribunal, wherever that may be. Will that international tribunal be obliged to take up its cause, especially a political one?

But France and, certainly other European Union members, refuse to be bound by the D'Amato law because it clearly contravenes the principles of the WTO and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The WTO was born out of a common international desire to foster free trade and to isolate countries that impose unilateral restrictions and thus impede this objective. From this standpoint alone, the U.S. should therefore be expelled from the WTO. The d'Amato bill, from the standpoint of the least harm that it can do to the international community, will be setting up a dangerous precedent for the progress of international commerce.

As U.S. presidential elections draw to a near, President Clinton flouts his record as being a good manager of his country's economy. Resilient as he may be and notwithstanding his Whitewater troubles, deep inside Clinton actually suffers from insecurity in the face of a stalled Middle East peace process and the inability to deal with suspected terrorist countries.

It is no wonder U.S. Defense Secretary, William Perry has pointed to a possible "Iranian connection" in the Saudi Arabia bombing and alerted its Saudi friends to beware of another bombing attack. The July 17 crash of the TWA plane from New York becomes just another excuse for a failed policy.

The world should know by now where the true source of paranoia is. It is useless to continue making allegations. It is high time those allegations are proven and rumor-mongering be laid at rest.

Zarif Renews Tehran's Call for Int'l Cooperation in Combating Terrorism

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif, here Sunday renewed Tehran's call for serious international cooperation to combat terrorism.

Speaking from Tehran in a live broadcast with the CNN reporter Frank Sesno, Zarif dismissed American allegations against Iran of involvement in terrorism as an "attempt to distract public attention."

"These attempts aim at distracting public attention from the realities of the case and from looking for the actual culprits," He added in his interview with the American television network.

According to IRNA, the Iranian deputy foreign minister noted that it has become a "normal business" after each incident to point a finger at Iran.

"These fingers are pointed for political reasons," he stressed.

Earlier, speaking on the same program, a journalist with the American weekly *Time*, Douglas Waller, alleged that the CIA was pointing a finger at Iran for the explosion on the TWA airplane.

Zarif cited previous cases in Argentina and in Oklahama where



Iran or Middle East states were immediately accused for bomb attacks, but later it was proved that the terrorist acts were carried out by local home-grown groups.

He reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns terrorist acts against civilians, like the TWA bombing and the Olympic Village bomb blast.

Zarif stressed that Iran does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, but added that the presence of American forces in the Persian Gulf region was a "destabilizing factor."

He recalled the downing of an Iranian civilian airliner by a missile fired from an Amercian warship in the Persian Gulf, killing all 270 passengers aboard.

The Iranian official firmly rejected U.S. media reports claiming the presence of 11 "terrorist" camps inside Iran as "baseless."

He pointed out that these reports were copied from the Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv*.

U.S. Defense Secretary, William Perry, Satruday retracted his earlier statements insinuating that Iran might be involved in the truck bombing against the U.S. military base in Al-Khobar in June.

Floods Inflict Damage in Mazandaran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Floods which recently hit Gorgan, Mazandaran Province, inflicted over Rls.3.1 billion in damage on farmlands, urban installations and livestock.

Director of the Watershed Management Department of Gorgan and Gonbad Ali Ghaffari said here Monday that eight people have been either killed or gone missing as a result of the floods, an IRNA report said.

Ghaffari said that floods also inflicted damage on over 1,150 hectares of farmland, 16 bridges, seven stores, an underpass and a number of residential units and killed 68 heads of livestock.

He added that operations were underway to reopen the communication routes and reconstruct the ruined areas.

Forest Fire Curbed in Northeastern Iran

GORGAN – Forest fire which broke out at Golestan Forest in Gorgan, northeastern Iran, on Sunday was curbed yesterday.

Director general of provincial Department for Natural Resources Gholam Hossein Kord Afshar said tens of firefighters and one helicopter were dispatched to the region to curb the fire.

He said the forest had also caught fire last year.

The 91,895-hectare Golestan Forest is one of the most beautiful woodlands in the world.

(IRNA)

China Withdraws Invitation to Zionist Mayor

SHIRAZ, Fars Province – Following the protests lodged by the representatives of the Arab League and Iran, China withdrew her invitation to the Zionit mayor of Bait-ul-Moqaddas to participate in the International Congress of Mayors of the World's Historical Cities.

The international congress is to be held in Xian, China, in September this year.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, mayor of this southern Iranian city Mohammad Vakili, said that earlier the Chinese organizers of the congress had invited a Zionist person to take part in the Xian gathering as mayor of Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

"Following the invitation extended by Chinese authorities to the Zionist mayor of Bait-ul-Moqaddas, we, in a letter to the mayor of Xian, expressed our displeasure over the call," said Vakili.

According to Vakili, the representative of the Office of the Arab League in Beijing in a meeting with the Chinese minister of foreign affairs last year had ex-

Rafsanjani's Messages to Presidents of Yemen, Morocco, Maldives

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani sent separate messages to heads of state of Morocco, Yemen and Maldives answering their congratulatory messages on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (S).

Thanking his counterparts for their messages he expressed hope for further solidarity and unity among the Muslim nations.

The birth anniversary of the Prophet (S) is an appropriate blessed occasion to further establish cordial relations and unity and help the oppressed and helpless Muslim people.

UK Analyst: U.S. Charges Against Iran Illogical

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – A leading Middle East analyst from London University said on Monday that the charges leveled by Washington against the Islamic Republic of Iran are illogical and ambivalent.

George Joffe from the School of Oriental and African Studies added that the U.S. allegations are aimed at serving domestic political purposes and trying to persuade its allies to isolate Iran, an IRNA report from London said.

He said that Iran was "being used as a scapegoat" by the Clinton administration, which had no concrete evidence to back up its attempt to blame Tehran for recent anti-U.S. bombings.

He told BBC Radio, "It should be remembered that the first supposed culprit of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing was said to be Iran before the blame was put on Libya. U.S. evidence against Iran was always extremely ambivalent."

On the same program, former U.S. Secretary of State, Lawrence Eagleburger, admitted that there was no evidence of Iran's supposed involvement in international terrorism.

Joffe warned that the effect of a U.S. attack would be "very bad" both in terms of the Middle East peace process and on maintaining unity with its European allies.

Arab states, he said, would

Foreign Tourists: Iran Enjoys Rich Culture

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran is rich in Oriental culture, said a group of foreign tourists here Sunday while inspecting Iran's Sixth Tourism Fair being held at Tehran's Permanent Ground for International Fairs, an IRNA report said.

A lecturer at the French University of Sorbonne, Professor Saleh Azimah, stated that Iran's Islamic culture was the most important aspect of Iran which impelled him to take serious interest in the matter.

He observed that the West has embarked upon a massive publicity against Islamic culture, has made allout efforts to isolate the pure Iranian Islamic culture, and has tried its best to veil Iran's precious values from communities of the world.

Azimah, who has done extensive research in the areas of philosophy, history and Islamic civilization, said that the ancient Iranian civilization and culture was interesting and enchanting for authors and researchers.

A Russian mufti, Taqiollah Sharif told IRNA that Iran possesses one of the richest Eastern cultures.

As for Iran's role in the expansion of tourism in bringing about Islamic unity among Muslim countries, Sharif said that with the materialization of Islamic tourism industry, real unity and solidarity among the Muslim community in the world would be realized.

A British tourist, visiting the fair, said that compared to other countries Iran was unique in terms of the diversity of cultures.

Deputy Foreign Minister: Iran a Pearl in a Shell

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Education and Research Affairs Abbas Maleki, here Sunday, said that Iran is a precious pearl in a shell.

Maleki made the remark while inspecting the Sixth Iran's Tourism Fair, an IRNA report said.

He said that Iranology would gain significance if such fairs were held regularly to represent Iran to the world.

He said that unfortunately, due to pressures and publicity of some mass media in the world, the world encyclopedias and dictionaries had attributed Iran's great heritage to others.

He added that the misrepresented publicity of the Western media has attributed the prominent Iranian scientist, Avicenna, to the Arab world, and invaluable Iranian pottery and other artifacts which have been unearthed in Iranian northeastern Province of Khorasan, currently being displayed at the world's biggest museums, as the treasured artifacts having been discovered in Afghanistan.

He pointed out that it was the



theme of some of the Western mass media against Iran's treasured heritage.

Maleki said that one of the best ways to represent Islamic cultural profile was continuation of the flow of information regarding Iran's rich Islamic arts, including paintings, handicraft, pottery, ceramic works, architecture, religious and historical sites, manuscripts, books, calligraphy, prominent poets, unique personalities of various towns and regions dating back to early centuries.

New Industrial Projects in Esfahan Awaiting to Be Inaugurated by President

ESFAHAN, Esfahan Prov. — Esfahan Province's ferro-manganese plant with an annual capacity of 30,000 tons is ready to go on the stream.

According to the experts the ferro-manganese products of the plant will be in comformity with the international standards and would save the nation $19.2 million annually.

Ferro-manganese is to be used in the country's steel manufacturing and moulding industries.

The ferro-manganese plant of Esfahan in central Iran, has been constructed at a cost of $1.528 million and Rls.13.367 billion on a 156,000-square-meter plot of land. The structure of the new plant, located adjacent to the steel mill of Esfahan, covers an area of 6,800 square meters.

It is predicted that this new industrial complex will be among the new giant projects to be inaugurated by President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in his imminent official visit to the province. (IRNA)

One Million Dollar Worth of Sodium Sulphate Exported From Garmsar

SEMNAN — Garmsar's sodium sulphate plant exported 1,800 tons of sodium sulphate in the past four months, this was said during the Sunday visit to the plant of the Azeri Ambassador to Tehran, Aliyar Safarlee.

The exported amount, worth over one million dollars, was shipped to the Persian Gulf states.

According to managing director of the plant Ali Akbar Sadati the factory produces 30,000 tons of sodium sulphate of 99.5 percent purity a year, of which 50 percent can be exported.

The plant supplies between 60 to 70 percent of the raw materials required by the country's glass, paper and detergent industries.

The Azeri ambassador is in Semnan Province to get acquainted with the production potentials and export capacity of the province. (IRNA)

Iran-Air Tour Starts Operation Between Ardebil, Mashhad

TEHRAN — Iranian air liner 'Iran-Air Tour' started flight between Ardebil in northwest Iran and Mashhad in northeastern part of the country, as of Monday.

In an opening ceremony here, the managing director of the airline, M. Ghaffar, said that the Iran-Air Tour, which is affiliated to the national Iranian flag carrier, Homa, has established air links between 17 different cities throughout the country.

Since its foundation in 1992, Iran-Air Tour by carrying out 63,000 flights has displaced 4.5 million passengers, the official added.

By hiring four more aircraft, the airline now possesses 10 airplanes, Ghaffar added.

In the ceremony, the managing director of Homa, Hassan Shafti, termed foundation of the Iran-Air Tour as one of the achievements of government during the reconstruction era.

Iran-Air Tour by displacing passengers and goods on domestic and international flights such as Mashhad to Syria and Macca plays a key role in the country's air transportation.

Iran-Air Tour conducts two flights a week between Aredbil and Mashhad on Mondays and Wednesdays. (IRNA)

Gilan's Chamber of Commerce and Pakistan's Punjab State Ink MOU

BANDAR ANZALI — A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was inked here on Sunday between the officials of the chambers of commerce of this Iranian northern province and of the Pakistan state of Punjab, at the sidelines of the International Trade and Industrial Fair, opened here on Friday.

The acting head of the Chamber of Commerce of Gilan Province, Nasr Esfahani, said that the MOU will help the Iranian and Pakistani provinces to further expand their bilateral trade relations.

MOU also included items on the exchange of information in the fields of commerce, trade and investment, between the two sides, he pointed out. (IRNA)

Rls.1,200bn for Irrigation of 400,000 Hectares of Farmland

TEHRAN — Rls.1,200 billion in credits has been set aside for irrigation udner pressure of 400,000 hectares of farmland across the country.

Managing director of the Agriculture Bank Ali Milani said here Monday that Rls.800 billion out of the total sum is to be provided by his bank and the rest by other banks.

Milani said that last year (March 21, 1995-March 19, 1996), his bank had paid Rls.240 billion for implementation of irrigation projects, of which Rls.154 billion had been spent for the purpose.

Milani said that the Agriculture Bank was ready to allocate Rls. 4,000 billion in credits for the agriculture sector by the year end on March 20. (IRNA)

Malaysians Told to Be Workaholics to Ensure Future Success

KUALA LUMPUR — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Monday urged Malaysians to become "workaholics" and raise productivity to help the country achieve full industrialised status by 2020.

"There is nothing wrong about working hard. Working for pay is more honorable than begging," he said in addressing a national convention on the Seventh Malaysia Plan — a five-year blueprint to guide Malaysia's socio-economic growth through to the year 2000.

"Working very hard for more pay is even more honorable," Mahathir said.

While the Seventh Plan was part of the process to achieve developed nation status by 2020, hard work remained the "sine qua non" of success in every field of human endeavor, Mahathir said.

"The successful people and nations of the world have all been known for their dedication and hard work and if the Seventh Plan is to succeed Malaysians must become workaholics," Mahathir said.

It would be suicidal to raise wages without increasing output or value-added manufacturing.

"If we do not want to commit economic suicide then our workers will have to work harder or they will have to acquire more skills so as to increase productivity," Mahathir warned.

His deputy, Anwar Ibrahim, last month warned that Malayisa's economy was beginning to feel the heat as a productivity increase of 6.1 percent in the first four months of the year lagged behind an average of 11.7 percent rise in salaries.

Mahathir also wanted Malaysians to become a more disciplined race and refrain from bad habits like indiscriminate littering.

"While we want to preserve our culture, there are aspects of our culture which we would like to demolish, among these is the habit of throwing rubbish all around us, thinking someone should be around to clean up after us," Mahathir said.

Malaysia has targetted an average economic growth of 7.5 percent a year to achieve industrialised status in 24 years. (AFP)

Iranian Rial Unaffected by U.S. Sanctions Threat

LONDON — The black market exchange rate of the Iranian rial has remained unaffected following the passage of secondary boycott legislation by the U.S. Congress on July 23.

Black market dealers in London, Tehran and the Persian Gulf are reported to be quoting 4,200 rials to the U.S. dollar, the same level since the Central Bank (Bank Markazi), intervened more than a year ago following its collapse after earlier U.S. sanctions.

According to *Middle East Economic Digest*, business people in Tehran are accrediting the rial's better performance to several factors and that direct parallels cannot be drawn with May 1995 when there was a disproportionate effect on the currency market.

Since then, Bank Markazi and the government are said to have restored some of their credibility with public confidence in their policies.

Other important factors in maintaining a strong rial are the enforcement of hard currency repatriation rules and a determined campaign against smuggling.

The secondary boycott legislation, which was due to be signed by President Clinton Monday, has provoked threatens of retaliatory measures from U.S. trading partners, who have unanimously condemned Washington's attempts to impose its laws on other countries.

European companies, most likely to be involved, have set up a working group to coordinate counter-moves and are scheduled to meet early this month to look at what "visible action" can be taken.

Firms, who face punishment for investing in Iran's oil development, are also separately exploring ways of circumventing the U.S. extra-territorial legislation.

American companies have further warned that the legislation would be counter-productive by harming U.S. interests and provoking trade wars with its allies. (IRNA)

300,000 Tons of Surplus Wheat in Gorgan Purchased by Government

GORGAN, Mazandaran Prov. — Head of provincial Rural Cooperatives Organization Ali Akbar Rahimi said here on Monday that the government has so far purchased 300,000 tons of the surplus wheat from local farmers.

He said the figure showed an increase of 25,000 tons compared to the amount of wheat purchased by the government last year.

Rahimi said the government has earmarked Rls.130 billion for buying the surplus wheat from farmers.

Some 180,000 hectares of provincial farmland are under wheat cultivation. (IRNA)

British Airways Increases Quarterly Profit by 11PC to 150 Million Pounds

LONDON — British Airways (BA) earned pre-tax profits of 150 million pounds ($232 million) in the first quarter of the 1996-1997 financial year.

This was an increase of 11 percent on a 12-month comparison, the company said on Monday.

The company also said that its proposed alliance with American Airlines did not contravene a prior agreement with the U.S. Air operator, which has mounted legal action against the planned tie-up.

"British Airways is confident that all our actions and agreements, including our proposed alliance with American Airlines, are consistent with the law and our obligations to USAir," BA said.

On July 30, U.S. Air said that it planned to challenge the proposed alliance between BA and American Airlines on the grounds that it was anti-competitive and contravened the terms of its own alliance with BA, which owns 24.6 percent of U.S. Air.

For its part, BA said that the plan to coordinate timetables and share trans-Atlantic flight revenues with American Airlines, America's leading air carrier, as well as existing partnerships would increase the company's profitability.

"With our current and proposed alliance partnerships ... we are well placed to provide continuing profitable growth for our shareholders and employees," BA chairman Sir Collin Marshall said.

He said that "the outlook for the airline industry in general and for British Airways remains encouraging" and predicted that "this will be another record year for the industry". (AFP)

Japan, U.S. Industries Endorse New Microchip Order

TOKYO — Leaders of the Japanese and U.S. semiconductor industries endorsed here Monday the start of a "new era" in electronics with the conclusion last week of an accord covering microchip trade.

Norio Ohga, chairman of the Electronic Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ), told a news conference the agreement concluded in Vancouver, Canada, with the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) of the United States, "recognizes the importance of promoting international cooperation."

To that end, Ohga said, the Japanese and U.S. industries had agreed to establish the World Semiconductor Council (WSC) to expand international cooperation in the microchip sector and address market access issues.

The EIAJ said the council would meet at the senior executive level at least once a year, and would also advise respective governments of action taken and make policy recommendations as appropriate.

Semiconductor associations of countries other than the United States and Japan can join the council provided all microchip tariffs have been, or will be, eliminated.

Ohga said the agreement reached by the two associations would be subject to review after three years, and may be terminated by mutual agreement.

He said the basic principle of the council would be respect for market mechanisms, and the WSC would discuss promotion of mutual understanding, industry cooperative activities, expansion of international cooperation and approaches to be taken when problems arise in the market.

The industry agreement parallels a joint statement made by the governments of the United States and Japan.

Ohga welcomed the fact that the new industry agreement, which replaces a government-level 1986 bilateral accord renewed in 1991, "is free of numerical targets or elements of managed trade, and I think this is an agreement that befits a new age of cooperation betweun us."

The 1991 accord, which expired last Wednesday, targetted a 20 percent foreign share of the Japanese domestic market. But in recent months, the foreign share has exceeded 31 percent.

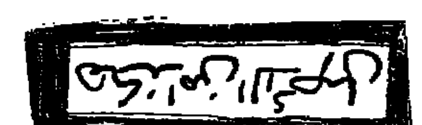
Tsugio Makimoto, chairman of the EIAJ Electronics Devices Steering Committee, said the WSC provides "a new cooperative framework within which we are going to be working."

Makimoto said it would enhance cooperation between users and suppliers, as well as cooperative relationships between suppliers, such as on standardization, environment and safety, intellectual property rights, and liberalization of trade and investment. (AFP)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Monday, August 5, 1996.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,353	1,360	2,322	2,334
Austria	schilling	168	169	288	290
Belgium	(100)francs	5,730	5,763	9,837	9,886
Canada	dollar	1,271	1,278	2,182	2,193
Denmark	krone	306	308	525	527
France	franc	348	350	597	600
Germany	mark	1,181	1,188	2,027	2,037
Holland	guilder	1,053	1,059	1,808	1,817
Italy	(100)liras	115	116	197	198
Japan	(100)yen	1,632	1,641	2,802	2,816
Sweden	krone	265	267	456	458
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,697	2,712	4,630	4,653
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015



Bravery at a Glance

Tehran Times Service



A Memory from a Brave Muslim Combatant

"The Difference between Chalk and Cheese!"

It was June, 1985 in the Faav region in the middle of Iran's Val Fajr-8 Operation and one of the jet fighters of the enemy was supposedly hit and falling near our fronts.

We rushed to the area where it hit the ground and searched for the Iraqi pilot.

We soon found him safe and sound and he easily surrendered himself to our group.

One of our combatant brothers who knew Arabic asked him the reason for his plane's crash and weather it was hit by Iranian missiles or anti-air fire.

"My plane wasn't hit at all! " he said, "It was the plane flying in front of mine that was hit, and fearing that the same thing might happen to my plane, I ejected!!"

Religious Music Fest: West Azarbaijan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — West Azarbaijan Prov.— A sixth Religious Music Festival entitled 'Zekr and Zaakerin' (Worshiping and the Worshippers) started in Mahabad last Tuesday.

The music festival that is a tribute to the memory of Prophet Mohammad (S) on his glorious birth anniversary.

Thirty ritual song performer groups, hailing from various parts of Iran, are to participate in the nationwide festival. The festival will then continue in Sanandaj, Kordestan Province, and later at Vahdat Hall in Tehran.

The festival is held on the occasion of the Unity Week, marking the annual ceremonies held nationwide, to demonstrate the unity of all schools of thought among Iranian muslims as well as their Muslim brethren and sisters elsewhere in the world.

Islamic religious music— a simple form of homophonic chants called *mowludi*, or birthday songs, or mourning hymns— is usually performed by non-professional male or female ensembles, who are ofetn very young. The female sigers perform for female audiences only.

Tenth Rural Fest Ends in Tehran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN— The Tenth Rural Festival, devoted to indigenous culture in rural regions of Iran, started its activities in Tehran Tuesday, and ended Saturday evening.

Mohammad Javad Ezhe'ee, Cultural Adviser to President Rafsanjani said on the occasion here Tuesday that witnessing a politically established status interna-

(Contd on Pg. 15)

MIRSALIM:

Iran at Peak in Calligraphy, Graphics, Design, Painting and Pottery

Fifth Biennial of Iranian Contemporary Clayworks and Pottery Ends in Tehran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Fifth Biennial of Iranian Contemporary Calyworks and Pottery concluded its three-month long activities (May 5- August 3) at the amphitheater of the Contemporary Arts Museum of Tehran with addresses from the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyed Mostafa Mirsalim and Head of Iranian Visual Arts Center and caretaker of the Contemporary Arts Museum Seyed Mohammad Sohofy Saturday evening, on the glorious birth anniversaries of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) and the Sixth infallible Imam of his Household, Imam Ja'far ibn Mohammad al-Sadeq (AS).

The creators of the best works were then awarded after the statement of the jury of the 5th Biennial was read to the audience. 1067 works from 145 artists from all over Iran were on display for three month at the Contemporary Arts Museum and thousands of Iranian and foreign visitors took part in the lectures as contributor or listener, or visited the works during the season-long Biennial.

319 works succeeded to reach the competition section and such internationally renowned publications as the European based *International Ceramic Review* wrote cover stories on the event.

"Claywork and pottery originated in our country." said the culture and islamic guidance minister in his address, after congratulating the occasion of the Prophet's birth anniversary. "and the clay pottery works found in Sialk Hills date back to seven or eight thousand years ago."

He then gave a comprehensive background of Iranian claywork in terms of the color of the clay used in different ears, pottery in Iranian literature and the promising future of this art in our country.

Sohofy too, congratulated the great Islamic *eid* of the Prophet's (S) and Imam Sadeq's (A.S) birth anniversary and in his short, but comprehensive lecture, talked about the areas of country and the Islamic world where the art of pottery and calywork have a good background, as well as being practiced at a high level today.

"Religions and arts have always had close cooperation and this has been to the mutual interest of both," said Sohofy.

Religions and arts have always had close cooperation and this has been to the mutual interest of both.



He then gave nine guidelines for promoting the artists in this noble field of art including "elimination of financial difficulties for the artists", "popularization of this art among the young generation through correct propagation policies, particularly in remoter provinces", "paying deeper attention to the quality of the works rather than the quantity," etc.

Elimination of financial difficulties of the artists and popularization of pottery art called for by the jury.

He also praised the ten percent raise in the number of the female participants in the biennial compared to two years ago and considered it a sign of good self-confidence of Iranian female artists as well as the good ground for their participation in cultural activities in our country.

Answering an exclusive question from the *Tehran Times* on his evaluation of the Muslim artists new methods of pottery and calyworks, Sohofy said:

"The Muslim claywork artists are experimenting new methods of dying their works. Glossy finishes, which are applied using new methods, gives a brilliantly beautiful appearance to the works in the recent years, for instance."

Sohofy is very pleased with the government's support of the artists in this field and particularly the close attention of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Finally, the statement of the jury of the Fifth Biennial was read to the audience, in which there are some helpful suggestions for the artists working in this field, as well as thanks to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance for the facilities contributed to the Biennial.

And then the names of the best five claywork artist was announced, who each received five *Bahar Azadi* gold coins and the first three, namely Esmaeil Shiran, Behzad Azhdary and Mina Rasoulzadeh also received plates of honor.

the next seven best claywork artists were applauded by the jury and two of the glasswork artists namely Salman Dourandish and Ali Bakhtiary were praised for their generous contributions to this field of art in our country.















BOOTH.

Solemn Silence Before Celebrations Start

ATLANTA — The farewell Olympic party fell silent late Sunday as Atlanta put closing ceremony celebrations on hold and paused in memory of the victims of the Olympic terror bomb.

Before declaring the games of the 26th Olympiad closed and summoning the youth of the world to assemble four years hence in Sydney, Australia, Juan Antoni Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee transfonned the closing ceremony into a solemn memorial.

"While we celebrate the success of these games, we have not forgotten the tragic explosion of last week, nor have we forgotten the victims, their families and their friends," said Samaranch.

A crude pipe bomb exploded in Centennial Park at 1:25 a.m. (0425 GMT) on Saturday, July 27, when thousands of revellers were attending a free rock concert. Two lives were lost and hundreds were injured.

Little Richard and B.B. King provided a rollicking finale to bring the curtain down on the games.

The tribute to the athletes included performances by such local groups as the Atlanta Youth Orchestra and the Morehouse College Glee Club, as well as pop Diva Gloria Estefan.

The 3,500 performers included roller-bladers, skate-boarders and cyclists who were to display their skills before the flags of the 197 competing nations were paraded around the field.

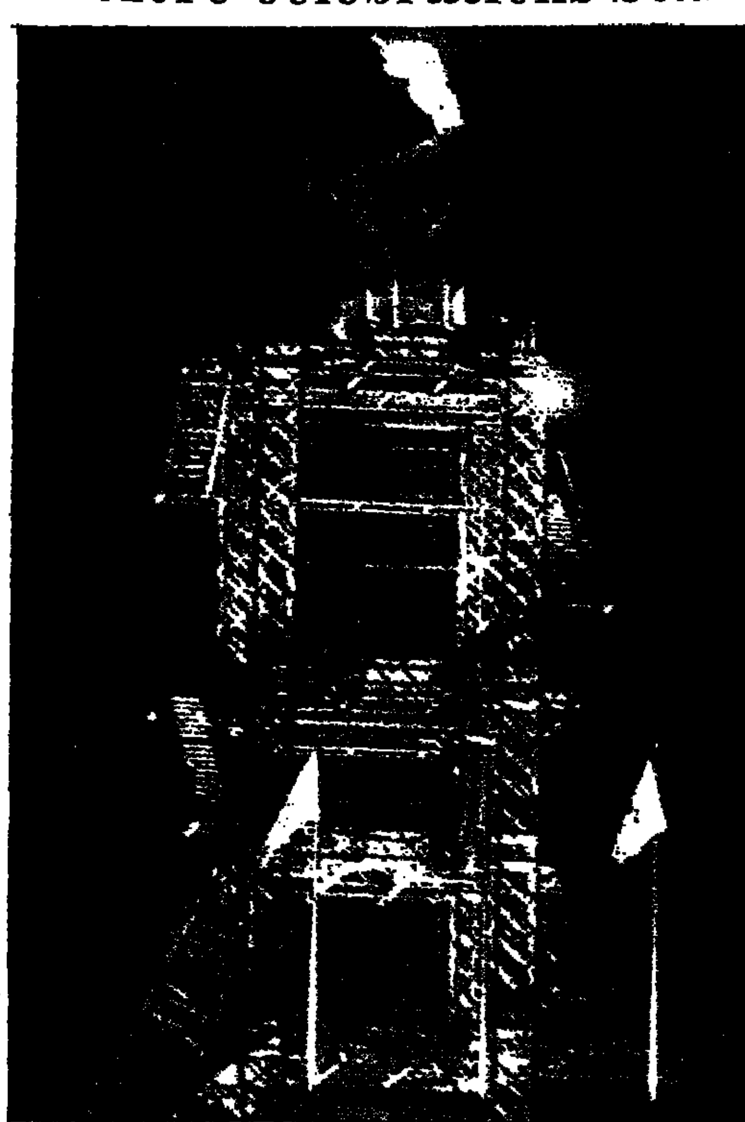
The parade of flags was a prelude to the required solemnities of the evening.

The flag ceremony, in which Atlanta mayor Bill Campbell passed the Olympic flag to Frank Sartor, lord mayor of 2000 Games host city Sydney, ushered in a seven-minute programme offering the world a foretaste of what to expect in 2000.

The Sydney display featured more than 170 performers ranging from school students to surf life-savers, aboriginal musicians and dancers, and 70 of Australia's 1996 Olympians.

The final extinguishing of the flame, marked by country singer trisha yearwood's acappella performance of the song "The Flame," signalled the start of the southern jamboree, a festival featuring a wealth of musical genres born the south — blues, rock and roll, jazz, country and Louisiana Zydeco.

Jazz composer Wynton Marsalis, country singer Faith Hill and soul singer Al Green, along with King and Georgia native Little Richard were in the line-up. (AFP)



ATLANTA, GA, United States: The Olympic flame goes out during the closing ceremonies at the Centennial 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

(AFP PHOTO)



Olympic Era Closes With Best and Worst

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Games closed Sunday having marked the end of an era for the Olympic movement for the best and worst of reasons.

Even with the suffocating but understandable security in place, record crowds queued to see record numbers of competitors set the sporting world alight.

The United States had their most successful non-boycotted Olympics since Mexico City in 1968 with 44 gold medals.

Even if Russia could have counted on medals from former Soviet satellites it would still have finished second, ahead of Germany, China and France — the big surprise of 1996.

Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey produced some stunning sprinting in the athletics. Johnson became the first man to complete the Olympic double of 200m and 400m.

His 200m world record was the first in the event since 1968. Mexico City and Jim Hines were the last time, discounting Ben Johnson's infamous run in Seoul in 1988, the 100m world record had been broken in the Olympics.

But Bailey's 100m record of 9.84sec was all the more astonishing after the nerve-wracking delay caused when defending champion Linford Christie refused to go after being disqualified for two false starts. (AFP)

China Retains Place as Asia's Sporting Tiger



ATLANTA — China emerged from the Atlanta Olympics as the most powerful Asian sporting tiger — and with its reputation intact — even though it suffered several disappointments.

Rivals South Korea and Japan both fell far short of their medal targets, but Hong Kong and Thailand got their first gold medals and even the Philippines discovered a new sporting hero.

Wu Shaozu, head of the Chinese National Olympic Committee, said: "We have achieved our target. The fact that China maintained the same level as the last time is a kind of progress."

China won 16 gold, 22 silver and 12 bronze medals — four bronze fewer than the 1992 Barcelona Games. They stood fourth overall behind the 44 golds for the United States, 26 for Russia and 20 for Germany.

The Chinese delegation complained bitterly about conditions in the athletes village. But Wu claimed China had performed well to maintain its leading position in the second tier of nations with Italy, Australia and Cuba.

He pointed out that Russia and Germany collected fewer gold medals than last time.

China's wonder swimmers managed only one gold through Le Jingyi in the women's 100-metre freestyle, a far cry from the four titles in Barcelona.

After stealing 12 of the 16 titles at the 1994 World Championships, the Chinese women created a major scandal at the Asian Games later that year when seven swimmers, including two world champions, tested postive for muscle-building drugs. (AFP)

Indonesia Worried About Match Practice

JAKARTA — Indonesia go into the inaugural Asian Football Federation Championship hoping that the strength of the squad will make up for lack of international match practice their coach said on Monday.

The Indonesian league season will finish just one week before the start of the Tiger Cup Competition, leaving coach Danur Windo little chance to test his national tea before their first match.

"This is a problem — our championships still haven't finished," said Windo. The final match of the Indonesian League Championship is scheduled for August 25.

The inaugural Tiger Cup will be contested by the ten national teams of Southeast Asia from September 1 to 15. Indonesia's first match is against Laos at Jurong Stadium on September 2. Indonesia is drawn in Group A of the first round-robin contest together with Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Burma.

The Indonesian national team will get together straight after the league's final games to prepare for their one and only warm-up match next month against 1995 Copa America champions Uruguay in Jakarta on August 28.

Last month they drew 2-2 with Western Australia in a friendly match in Perth, Australia. Kurniawan dwi Yulianto and Widodo Putra scored the Indonesian goals. (AFP)



ATLANTA, GA, United States (August 4): Germany's Ulrich Kirchhoff carries the German flag after winning the gold medal in the Olympic equestrian individual jumping competition with "Jus de Pommes" at the Georgia International Horse Park.

(AFP PHOTO)

Reid Floors Cuban for Olympic Gold

ATLANTA — Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Thailand won their first-ever Olympic boxing gold medals on Sunday, while David Reid's knockout punch of Cuban Alfredo Duvergel salvaged American pride.

An over the top right-hand from Reid with 35 seconds left in his light middleweight final earned the only U.S. gold medal of the competition, and avoided their first gold drought since the 1948 London Olympics.

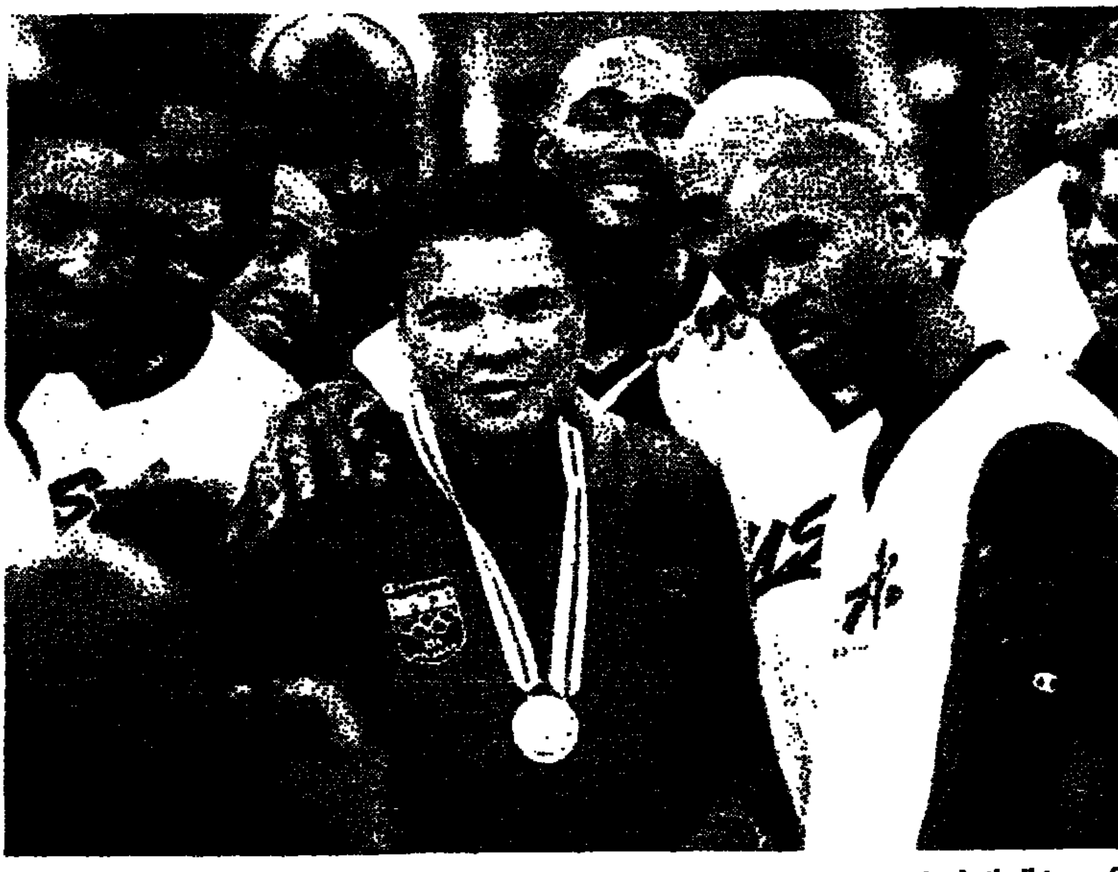
But Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Thailand can return home boasting the same number of gold as the host nation, and even the tiny pacific kingdom of Tonga had a chance before super heavyweight Paea Wolfgram lost on points.

Kazakh light heavyweight Vasilii Jirov, who was judged the winner of the Val Barker Cup for the boxer with the best technique during the tournament, claimed gold when he outpointed South Korean Seung-Bae Lee 17-4.

Somluck Kamsing dedicated his gold medal — Thailand's first — to his King Brumiphol Adouldash on his golden jubilee year, after getting an 8-5 points featherweight verdict over Bulgarian world champion Serafim Todoro.

Ukraine's Vladimir Klichko ended Wolfgram's fairytale Olympics with a 7-3 points decision in the super heavyweight.

With heavyweight legend Muhammad Ali watching ringside, Reid delivered the sensational result of the final day of the boxing tournament when he smashed Duvergel to the canvas to ignite the partisan home crowd. (AFP)



ATLANTA, CEORGIA, USA (August 3): Muhammad Ali poses with the USA Men's Basketball team for Ali's personal photographer after the U.S. basketball team won the gold medal game against Yugoslavia. Ali received a new gold medal after he had misplaced his original.

(AFP PHOTO)

Dutch Win Men's Volleyball

ATLANTA — The Netherlands survived matchpoint in a heart-stopping tie-breaker to beat world number one Italy and claim their first men's Olympic volleyball title here Sunday.

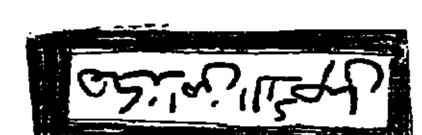
The Dutch squad, runners-up to Brazil at the 1992 Barcelona Games, won 15-12, 9-15, 16-14, 9-15, 17-15 as the Olympic gold again slipped through the hands of Italy.

The 1990 and 1994 world champions and the 1995 World Cup holders lost to the Netherlands in the Barcelona quarter-finals.

For the Dutch, the win was a repeat of the world league final in Rotterdam in June in which they again beat Italy.

After 6-6 in the first set, the Dutch squad kept the lead with Olof van der Meulen and Bas van de Goor attacking from both sides. Italy battled back from 7-11 down to 12-13. The Dutch took the set when Van der Meullen struck off the Italian block.

(AFP)



President Rafsanjani Inaugurates Major Projects in Charmahal



SHAHR-E KORD, Charmahal-Bakhtiari Province — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived here this morning to put into operation more than 170 industrial, economic and development projects.

The president was warmly welcomed by the representative of the Leader in the province, the governor general and many other provincial officials at Shahr-e Kord airport.

The governor general of the province Abdullah Kobaei said that during president's visit 35 grand industrial and manufacturing units will be inaugurated including the highway connecting Shahr-e Kord to Khuzestan Province.

The president is to inaugurate 116 telecommunications projects, 18 agricultural and 11 industrial projects, including water and power supply projects to remote villages.

President will also break the ground for 'Karoon-4' Dam and a 196-bed hospital, said the governor general. Local officials are to propose to President Rafsanjani plans for construction of railroad line and a petrochemical complex, he added.

The construction activities of Iran's largest dam started near Shahr-e Kord in this southwestern province at presence of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday.

Minister of Energy Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said that the dam has a total capacity of about two billion cubic meters and a 30 km-long reservoir. The 207-meter dam has a 410 meter crown. Its width at the top is nine meters and 112.5 meters at the foundation.

The dam, to be completed by the year 2004, will yield an annual revenue of Rls. 120 billion once it goes on stream, Zanganeh said.

Located 166 km southwest of here, the dam has a 62 meter-floodgate with a capacity of 15,300 cubic meters per second.

In another development, the 263 km highway connecting Shahr-e Kord to Izeh (in Khuzestan Province) became operational at the presence of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Costing Rls. 263km highway 47,500 million, the project cut the distance between the central provinces of the country and the southwestern Province of Khuzestan by 250 km.

President Rafsanjani arrived here yesterday to put into operation more than 170 industrial, economic and development projects.

Meanwhile, a textile and synthetic fiber manufacturing plant was put into operation here on Monday in presence of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Director general of the provincial industries department Rajabali Sadeqi told the president and his entourage that the plant produces 23,750 tons of polypropylene, machine carpet threads, wollen polyester and B.C.S. threads.

The president also picked the ground for Alborz fine silk producing factory in this eastern provincial city. The plant is to be set up at a cost of Rls. 1.56 million plus ten million marks.

The plant is to become operational in the next nine months, creating jobs for 600 people.

Rafsanjani said that grounds have been prepared for development and the government supports those people investing in industry and manufacturing sector.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of several industrial plants in the provincial city of Boroujen, he said, "I congratulate those will help create jobs in addition to reinforcing the economy."

In another development, the president while opening the newly-built strategic Isfahan-Shahr-e-Kord-Khuzestan road said that 5,000 vehicles can travel on he new road per day. The road cuts the distance between Isfahan and Khuzestan provinces by 200 km and would save over $30 million worth of fuel a year. (IRNA)

Riots Sparked by Frustration and Brutality of Security Forces

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — The tide of anger that erupted into West Bank riots was born from mounting frustration at the stalemated peace process and resentment at widespread abuses by Palestinian security services, analysts said.

The conflict has pitted a security apparatus trained in authoritarian Arab states with minimal practical experience against a population fed up that three years of peace negotiations with Israel have brought nothing but unemployment, blockades and disillusion.

"It has been a long process of accumulating anger and frustration, which has built up slowly but surely," said Ghassan Khatib, director of the independent Palestinian think-tank the Bait-ul-Moqaddas media and communication center.

He highlighted "the mentality of senior Palestinian officers who are working without clearly defined legislation and with the hardened experience forged in exile."

In addition, the security services are divided into nine separate, and sometimes competing, entities.

Frayed nerves snapped when Mahmoud Jemayel died in an Israeli hospital on Wednesday after being tortured by Palestinian security officials — the news sent hundreds of angry demonstrators onto the streets of Nablus.

Just two days later a Hamas activist Ibrahim al-Hadayeda was shot dead allegedly by Palestinian police outside Tulkarm Prison in a botched attempt to control a demonstration demanding the freedom of hunger-striking detainees.

The crowds then stormed the prison, freeing 60 members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and forcing police to retreat under a hail of bottles and stones. (AFP)

Hezbollah Attack Wounds 2 Soldiers

TYRE, Lebanon — Two Israeli soldiers were wounded Monday in an attack claimed by Hezbollah activists in the occupied border zone of South Lebanon, security sources said.

An Israeli military source confirmed the incident, saying one soldier was slightly wounded.

A Hezbollah source said the activists fired mortars and machine-guns at a post manned by Israeli troops and their allied South Lebanon Army mercenaries near Baraasheet Village in Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Security sources said 20 mortar shells hit the position, injuring two Israeli soldiers.

Israeli artillery retaliated by firing more than 30 shells at areas north of the zone, as two Israeli warplanes flew at low altitude over villages near the southern port city of Tyre, the security sources said. (AFP)

Israel to Begin Al-Khalil Pullout This Month

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Israel will begin its long-delayed partial withdrawal from the West Bank city of Al-Khalil at the end of this month, Israeli media reported Monday quoting government sources.

The Hebrew-language daily *Yediot Aharonot* and the channel two private television network said no exact date had been set for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from most of the overwhelmingly Palestinian city.

But they reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would order the army redeployment to begin by the end of the month.

Under the terms of Israeli-Palestinian Autonomy agreements, Israel was to turn four-fifths of Al-Khalil over to the Palestinian Authority in March, leaving a small army force to guard Jewish settlements where some 400 Israelis live amidst the city's 120,000 Arab residents.

The pullback from Al-Khalil, the last major West Bank town still under Israeli control, was delayed by the previous Prime Minister Shimon Peres following a spate of bombings and is considered a key test of Netanyahu's commitment to the Palestinian peace process.

Netanyahu has yet to announce his plans for Al-Khalil, saying his government which came to power following May 29 elections was studying various options for the city, considered holy by both Arabs and Jews.

Israeli radio and newspapers reported Monday that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat sent a letter to Netanyahu Sunday calling for quick implementation of the Al-Khalil handover agreement.

Arafat also expressed his concern over a government decision on Friday to lift restraints imposed by the previous Labor government on the expansion of Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories.

The letter was reportedly transmitted to Israeli officials by Palestinian official Saeb Erakat during a meeting Sunday with Eitan ben-Tsur, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Sunday a hardline Israeli minister proposed that the number of settlers living in Al-Khalil be boosted ten-fold to 4,000. (AFP)

Mubarak to Meet Assad in Next Two Days

CAIRO — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet within the next two days with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad in Cairo, the official *Al-Ahram* newspaper reports in its Monday edition.

Mubarak will discuss with his Syrian counterpart the results of his trip to Washington last week which focused on the Middle East peace process and the resumption of the Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations.

The Egyptian leader will also meet on Saturday with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, the daily added.

There has been a flurry of meetings between Arab leaders since Israeli rightwing, nationalist leader Benjamin Netanyahu won May elections in the Zionist state and was elected prime minister.

His hardline stand and refusal to trade occupied Arab lands in exchange for peace has sparked alarm in Arab capitals.

But Mubarak, who was the first Arab leader to meet officially with Netanyahu last month, told his government Saturday that he intends to have regular contacts with the Israeli prime minister in a bid to salvage the peace process

Netanyahu is due to make his first official visit to Jordan on Monday for talks with King Hussein, after the monarch met with Assad in Syria on Saturday. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CLINTON...

vited to hear the Clinton's speech on terrorism.

Libya has been asked to extradite two Libyan intelligence agents in connection with the bombing but Tripoli has refused despite a UN air and military embargo imposed on 1992.

The new law has already drawn harsh criticism from the United States' European allies.

The Clinton move was prompted by Washington's failure to persuade European allies to join its unilateral economic embargo imposed on Iran in June 1995 after baselessly accusing it of sponsoring international terrorism — charges fiercely denied by Tehran.

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry spoke over the weekend of an "international connection" — possibly involving Iran — in the June 25 bombing of a U.S. military housing complex in Saudi Arabia.

Iranian state radio said on Monday that "this irrational attitude will only allow the true terrorists to act more freely and reinforce their bases in the United States."

Iranian newspapers kept up their attacks on the United States, and one of them predicted that Washington's latest move against Iran "will fail and join a long list of erroneous U.S. policies" against the Islamic Republic. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

CILLER...

Since the PKK launched its armed campaign for a Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey in 1984, successive Turkish governments have rejected any dialogue with the separatist group. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ISRAEL...

of peace, will be redivided," said King Hussein in a joint press conference following talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Before Israel seized East Bait-ul-Moqaddas in June 1967, the holy city had been divided into two sections, an Arab eastern sector and the west under Israeli rule.

The Jordanian monarch said Bait-ul-Moqaddas should now be "the symbol of peace and harmony among the three monotheistic religions."

"The status of the holy city should be discussed by Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the 'final status' negotiations," he said, hoping the two parties would find a formula for sovereignty making "Jerusalem (Bait-ul-Moqaddas) something very special."

Netanyahu stressed that Bait-ul-Moqaddas would not be redivided by a wall but open to Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Israel claims the whole of Bait-ul-Moqaddas as its capital, while the Palestinians want the eastern sector as the capital of a state of their own. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

FRANCE...

It noted that last April the European council had "instructed the commission to consider retaliatory measures if the Iran-Libyan legislation was passed into law. We shall now be urgently consulting with our EU partners."

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ARMY...

The influential military abides strictly by the secular principles of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk who founded modern Turkey in 1923 to replace the Ottoman Empire.

The Turkish press earlier reported a dispute between the military leadership and Erbakan over the fate of those officers "with extreme Islamist tendencies," but officials from the prime minister's Welfare Party denied the allegations.

Erbakan, who used hard-line Islamist rhetoric before last December's general elections, later dropped radical policies and announced a center-right government program after becoming prime minister on June 28.

In a related development, the Welfare Party sacked at the weekend several local party administrators in five eastern provinces who had been known for their religious Islamist tendencies, the Istanbul-based liberal daily *Hurriyet* reported Monday.

Some political analysts said Erbakan, a pragmatic politician, felt the need to abandon the radical policies of his opposition days once he assumed the responsibilities of prime minister. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

MUSLIMS...

hold fast to the axis of Islam and work to remove rifts which have been created and flared up by the enemies of Islam.

Some 90 Islamic figures from 35 countries attended the conference, held here August 1-3.

The conference is held annually in Iran on the auspicious birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet (S) of Islam.

Swedish Premier ... Washington to Discuss Security

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 36°C
Min. temp. 25°C

Clear to partly cloudy

Warmest Points:
Abadan, Omidieh 47°C

Coldest Point:
Firoozkouh 6°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	43	Vienna	-
Istanbul	-	Moscow	21
Rome	28	Madrid	28
Athens	–	Abu Dhabi	43
London	25	Karachi	30
Paris	27	New Delhi	–
Frankfurt	21	Kuwait	45

Iran Denies Pursuit of Nuclear Arms

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Moscow, in a statement, denied that Iran was seeking to acquire the parts needed to produce atomic weapons.

The denial came after a Russian newspaper, quoting some Israeli media, charged Iran with trying to assemble atomic arms through procuring the necessary parts.

The statement stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran, unlike the Zionist regime, is a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and that Iran is one of the active members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"The Zionist regime, which is the source of such baseless allegations against Iran, itself has not yet allowed the IAEA inspectors to visit its nuclear installations," it added.

The statement concluded by underlining that the Islamic Republic of Iran, while supporting the peaceful use of atomic energy, has been calling on the UN for years to declare the Middle East as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

Swedish Premier Off to Washington to Discuss Baltic Security

STOCKHOLM – Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson headed to Washington on Monday for talks with President Bill Clinton on security in the Baltics region.

During his meeting Tuesday morning at the White House, the head of the social democratic government was to "tell his host that Sweden is ready to play a bigger role in 'soft security' in the region", but does not want to guarantee the Baltic states' military security, Persson's diplomatic advisor Lars Danielsson told AFP.

The concept of "soft security" promoted by Stockholm consists of an increase in civilian security cooperation on matters involving nuclear issues and rescue operations, and police cooperation, notably in the fight against organized crime and border controls. Sweden had raised the issue at a meeting of the heads of government of Baltic Sea states in May.

"We hope that the Americans will view this as a great element in increasing security in the area," Danielsson said.

In the first meeting between the two leaders, Persson is also expected to insist on the need for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to join the European Union as a means of bringing them out of their current isolation.

"But this process is relatively slow," Danielsson noted, regretting that there is "no consensus among the EU member states" on the subject.

Concerning the Baltic states' bid to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Persson reiterated on Sunday that Sweden, which is officially neutral, "respected this decision" as each country is entitled to ensure its own defense.

However, Stockholm "hopes that any enlargement will not diminish security and draw new division lines," the advisor noted. "Even if we are not members, we are affected by enlargement."

After a brief meeting with Persson in Stockholm on Monday, Estonian President Lennart Meri said "Sweden cannot guarantee Estonia's security", calling instead for "trans-Atlantic cooperation" on the issue.

In addition to discussing security matters with officials in Washington, Persson also plans to promote increased American investments in the Baltic Sea region, Danielsson said. He is to meet with officials from the World Bank. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 4)

TENTH...

...ionally for the Iranian nation would require first and foremost independence of their national culture.

He also said, "To ward off the cultural onslaught of the West, the Iranians would have to give their own culture a more solid base at home."The festival is schedulled to continue for five days.

TEHRAN, (August 5): The newly-appointed Croatian Ambassador to Tehran Tomislav Bosnjak (L) arrives here early Monday and was welcomed by Croatian charge d'affairs (R).

Indian PM, U.S. Senator Tour Kashmir ahead of State Polls

JAMMU, India - Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda visited Kashmir on Monday in a second trip ahead of the first legislative elections in nine years set to be held in the Himalayan valley next month.

United States Senator Hank Brown, meanwhile, arrived Monday in Srinagar on a two-day trip to the state summer capital of Indian-administered Kashmir.

More than 16,000 paramilitary troops and commandos fanned out across Jammu, conducting search operations to preempt any violence during Deve Gowda's one-day visit in this Hindu-dominated winter capital of Jammu.

"We have written to the Election Commission, but we cannot compel it to (order the polls)," he said.

Deve Gowda charged Islamabad with plotting to disrupt the first state elections since 1987 in Kashmir, where more than 12,000 people have died in separatist violence during the past seven years.

"Our armed forces will not allow that," Deve Gowda warned.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the militants in Kashmir.

Kakistan, which holds the northern third of Kashmir, denies the allegations but extends diplomatic support to what it considers a legitimate campaign for self-rule.



His trip here follows a visit last month to Srinagar, the urban hub of a secessionist campaign in the only state with a Muslim majority.

Deve Gowda's United Front government, which took office on June 1, plans to hold the assembly polls next month, the first legislative elections in the federally-administered state in nine years.

The premier has pledged "maximum autonomy" to Kashmir but his assurances have failed to convince the separatists to take part in the elections.

Deve Gowda told reporters his government was keen on conducting the elections at the earliest.

"Elections in Kashmir will be held as soon as possible," Deve Gowda told reporters in the state

The two South Asian rivals have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since the subcontinent's independence in 1947.

Senator Brown, meanwhile, met separatist leaders in Srinagar on Monday amid tight security, ending speculation that India had rejected his plans to tour Kashmir.

"I am here to know the situation in Kashmir, and will meet different people and then only I will comment," the Republican senator told reporters in Srinagar.

Reports from Washington last week said New Delhi had turned down brown's requests for a visit to Kashmir. (AFP)

Iranian Embassy in Riyadh Condemns U.S. Baseless Allegations Against Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – Iran's Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, issued a statement on Monday categorically condemning the U.S. allegations against Iran.

Following baseless and irresponsible statements recently made by U.S. Defense Secretary, William Perry, the embassy in its statement blasted the U.S. for its hostility against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In his recent statements, Perry implicitely attributed the last month bombing of the U.S. base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, to Iran.

Saudi officials refusal to confirm Perry's statements as well as the U.S. failure to prove such accusations in the past made Perry to back away from his nasty remarks, the Iranian Embassy said in its statement.

Iranian Foreign Ministry officials, aware of Washington's quest for undermining peace and stability in the region, wrote to the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and categorically denied such allegations.

In a letter to Ghali, the Iranian Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, also condemned the U.S. intolerable interference in the internal affairs of Iran's neighboring countries, the statement added.

In a similar accusation, leveled against Iran by U.S. officials last year, former U.S. ambassador to Riyadh accused Iran of being involved in Riyadh bomb explosion. However, investigations made by the Saudi officials proved the baselessness of such claims and showed that the hasty remarks of the U.S. ambassador were totally unfounded.

In its statement Iran's Embassy in Riyadh underlined the friendly ties between Iran and Saudi government and people and felt confident that the investigations will prove the baselessness of the U.S. accusations.

Tanzanian President, S. African VP Discuss Burundi Crisis

DAR ES SALAM — South Africa has pleged its support for ongoing initiatives by African leaders aimed at restoring peace and democracy in violence-torn burundi, a senior state house official said here on Monday.

Pretoria offered backing for regional moves to resolve the Burundi crisis during talks at State House here between Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa and visiting South African Vice-President Thabo Mbeki.

Mkapa's Press Secretary Patrick Chokala told AFP that during the two-hour talks Mbeki, who arrived here earlier Monday for a one-day official visit, also expressed strong support for economic sanctions against Burundi.

Regional states imposed the economic blockade to punish the July 25 power grab by Burundi's new Military Leader Major Pierre Buyoya and fellow Tutsi military officers.

However, to date only Tanzania has moved to implement the sanctions

The State House talks were also attended by Tanzanian Foreign and International Cooperation Minister Lieutenant-Colonel Jakaya Kikwete, and South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo.

Mkapa and Mbeki later had lunch at the State House before the South African delegation held similar talks with former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, at his Msasani residence here. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg.2)

CHINA...

pressed dissatisfaction over the invitation of the Zionist mayor to the gathering.

The congress was held in Canada, in 1991.

Finding the ways to survive the most important historical cities, preserving the historical heritage of those cities and encouraging goverments, international institutes and personalities to contribute to the upkeeps of those cities are the main objectives of the congress. (IRNA)

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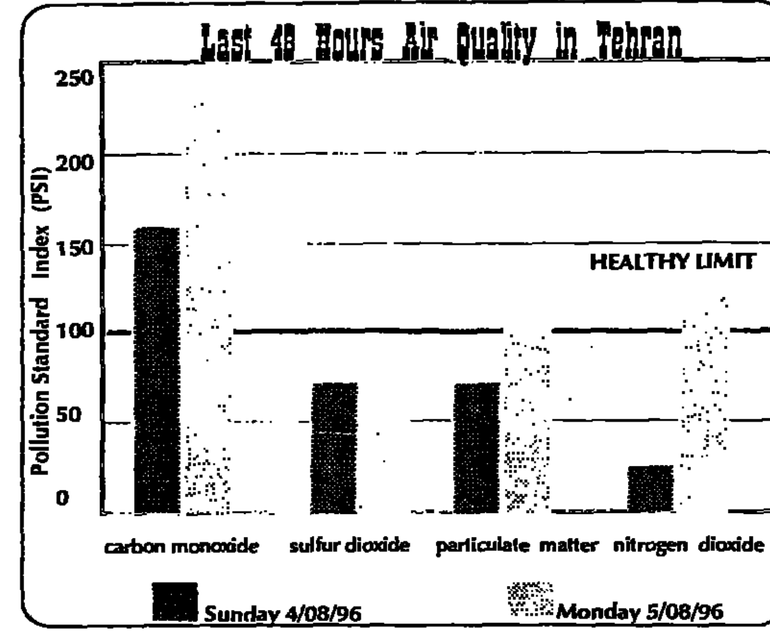
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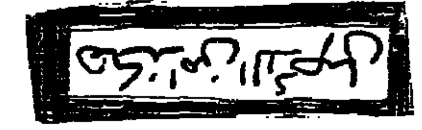
"simply see the Americans have again used their military might rather than trying to bring different sides together to resolve a conflict," while European states were already "extremely suspicious" of U.S. motives.

The analyst said that he could see no evidence of a "generic thing called terrorism" as used by the U.S. to group specific incidents or label so-called Pariah states.

To resolve the problem of terrorism, he insisted, the root causes had to be found. It is not right to simply blame those who are considered to be the perpetrators.

To do so, Joffe said, was often to serve domestic political purposes rather than serve as an explanation of what had occurred.





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Death at Funeral Ceremony

TINCHEBRAY, France — One person was killed and two injured Wednesday when a wall fell on them as they attended a funeral in a cemetery in northwestern France, officials said.

Louise Huard, 70, died when an earth-mover driven by an undertakers' assistant knocked over the 4.5 meter (15 foot) high wall at the cemetery in Tinchebray in the Orne region to the west of Paris.

Her husband Rene, 81 was seriously injured, while another mourner Claudine Grippon, 66, was slightly injured. They were both rushed to hospital in nearby Flers.

(AFP)

Not So Mellow-Yellow

LONDON — A prisoner dreaming of escape painted himself yellow so that guards would take him to hospital thinking he had jaundice, British papers reported Monday.

The plan of the inmate, serving a six-year sentence for burglary at Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight, was thwarted by an officer who looked into his cell on a late-night check and saw him coloring his face.

"He had carefully painted all his body with the yellow highlighter pen," a prison spokesman told the newspapers. "The problem was he had made such a good job of it, he was a very bright yellow indeed."

(AFP)

Death Sentence Sought for Ex-Dictator



SEOUL, Korea (South Korea) (August 5): Angry South Korean relatives fight riot police in front of Seoul district court during an anti-government demonstration during which they called for the punishment by death of jailed former President Chun Doo-Hwan and his successor Roh Tae-Woo. Prosecutors demanded the death penalty for Chun and life imprisonment for Roh for their roles in the 1980 Kwangju massacre of pro-democracy protesters.

(AFP PHOTO)

SEOUL — Prosecutors on Monday demanded death for former South Korean dictator Chun Doo-Hwan and life imprisonment for his successor Roh Tae-Woo for their roles in a military mutiny and a notorious massacre.

But the undaunted Chun said he did not fear for his life, dismissing the trial as "political retaliation" by the incumbent civilian government of President Kim Young-Sam. Sentencing was expected in two weeks.

"I don't fear for my life," Chun said in a statement. "All that I want at this moment is that my punishment end division and that I will be the last victim of a trial for political retaliation."

Chun, 65, was charged with leading a military coup and an insurrection that led to the massacre of over 200 pro-democracy protestors in the southern city of Kwangju in 1980, a watershed in South Korean politics.

Roh, 64, was accused of playing key roles in the mutiny and insurrection.

The sentence, expected in two week's time, would take into account graft charges filed before the same court.

Prosecutors asked the court to fine Chun a total of 225.9 billion won ($277.5 million) representing bribes allegedly received from businessmen. Roh was asked to pay $348.6 million.

Bank deposits and other assets belonging to the two former presidents have been frozen pending the trial, which opened on March 11, spanning 27 hearings and featuring some 40 witnesses.

South Korea's ruling and opposition parties expressed mixed feelings Monday.

"The trial will help our country turn a dark page in our history," said President Kim's New Korea Party (NKP).

The NKP asked Chun and Roh to repent for their misdeeds and join its drive for reforms — a strong indication that Chun would be spared from execution.

The main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) slammed the ruling camp for allegedly using the trial for "political gains" ahead of next year's presidential campaign.

Opposition legislators have accused the ruling party of trying to seek an amnesty for Chun and Roh in return for their silence over a slush fund, part of which was allegedly funnelled into President Kim's 1992 election campaign.

(AFP)

Fierce Battles Rage in Sri Lanka, Toll Tops 300

COLOMBO — Ferocious battles raged in northern Sri Lanka Monday as Tamil Tiger rebels resisted a major government advance towards their political headquarters and both sides said more than 300 were killed.

Air force ground attack aircraft pounded suspected guerrilla positions in the town of Kilinochchi as infantry penetrated rebel defenses and advanced three kilometers (1.8 miles) overnight Sunday, the Defense Ministry said.

"Ground troops have confirmed 203 terrorists were killed and estimate that over 100 were injured," the ministry said adding that air force planes and artillery guns were used to "soften the target" before the ground offensive.

The ministry said one officer and 14 soldiers were killed in action and 32 wounded. "The advance resumed this morning and the latest reports indicate that the terrorists are offering resistance," the ministry said.

For its part, the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a statement from its London office said "more than 100" government soldiers were killed in overnight fighting. (AFP)

Thousands of Hutus Killed by Burundi Army in April-July

GENEVA — The Tutsi-led army in Burundi killed thousands of Hutu civilians between April and July, a UN report said, citing its own observers in the strife-wracked central African republic.

The UN report, a copy of which was obtained by AFP on Monday, was the first mention of these new massacres in Burundi.

One of the worst was the massacre of about 500 people killed by soldiers in Nyeshenza in Cibitoke Province on June 27. Witnesses said another 1,200 people were killed by the army in Mushikano, in Muramvya Province, between May 13 and 17.

Hundreds of other people were killed in separate massacres in various other provinces, the report added.

It was drawn up by a team of five UN observers who went to Burundi on April 19 for a human rights fact-finding mission. They were based in Bujumbura, but also went out into rural areas.

The report, scheduled for release Monday, said the last few months in Burundi had been marked by the massacres of civilians, assassinations, disappearances and arbitrary arrests.

It warned of an increase in ethnic violence across the country, particularly in the south and center which has been largely spared up to now.

Burundi has been wracked by unrest since the country's first Hutu president was killed in a failed coup in October 1993.

(AFP)

Major Quake Near Tonga

HONG KONG — A major earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale occurred near the south Pacific archipelago of Tonga early Monday, Hong Kong's Royal Observatory reported.

The quake occurred at 0221 GMT, it said.

"The epicentre was initially determined to be in the vicinity of the Tonga Islands, about 310 kilometers (190 miles) west-southwest of Pago Pago, American Samoa," it said.

The monitor gave the location at 15 degrees, three minutes south, 173 degrees four minutes west.

An earthquake measuring six on the Richter scale can cause severe damage in built-up areas. A temblor measuring seven is capable of widespread, heavy damage.

(AFP)

Opposition Leader Sends Lawyers to Answer Summons

JAKARTA — Embattled opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri sent a team of lawyers to police headquarters here Monday where she had been summoned for questioning in a case involving alleged slander of President Suharto.

Head lawyer Robert Tambunan said after the 90-minute meeting with police that his legal team gave the police a letter outlining four legal flaws in the police summons that were the reasons for Megawati's absence.

Tambunan said the summons failed to address Megawati properly as a member of both houses of Parliament and did not name the accused in the case, in which she has been called as a witness.

Police also failed to issue the summons within the required 72-hour period and they did not provide a letter from the president, required in order for a member of Parliament to be questioned, Tambunan added.

Indonesian police are holding 193 people in connection with violent riots here nine days ago, the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) said Monday.

"The number is changing all the time, but now there are 193," said Ridarson Galingging, head of the civil and political rights section at LBH. He said LBH lawyers met with the detainees Saturday and listed 190 people in custody in Jakarta's central police headquarters, while three others were arrested Monday morning.

But on Monday police claimed to be holding only 133 people specifically in connection with the riots.

Police said last week the 123 would be charged with subversion, which carries a maximum penalty of death and allows the authorities to detain a person for up to one year without trial.

Many of the detainees are supporters of ousted opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri and were arrested during and immediately after the riots. (AFP)

JAKARTA, Indonesia (August 5): Lawyer Robert Tambunan (C) leads a legal team representing embattled Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI) leader Megawati Sukarnoputri to Jakarta police headquarters. Megawati, the daughter of founding President Sukarno, sent the delegation after she was summoned as a witness in a case of slander against President Suharto.

(AFP PHOTO)

Warlord Alerts Troops, Threatens to Renounce Truce

MOGADISHU — North Mogadishu strongman Ali Mahdi Mohamed put his militiamen on high alert Monday and threatened to revoke a cease-fire following the election of former U.S. marine Hussein Aidid to replace his slain father as "president" of Somalia and leader of a rival faction.

Ali Mahdi told AFP that his ally Osman Hassan Ali "Atto," might revoke his cease-fire too.

Both Mogadishu warlords declared unilateral truces after General Mohamed Farah Aidid died Thursday, having been wounded a week earlier in a battle in the south of the capital.

Ali Mahdi told AFP that the election of 35-year-old Hussein "may provoke the security situation in Somalia" and warned that if Aidid's faction "does not refrain from acts of violence they will be responsible for any wrongdoing taking place in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia."

"We have put our troops on high alert," he said in an interview, adding that he and Osman Atto "may change our minds on our unilateral cease-fire."

Ali Mahdi described Hussein Aidid's election as "selfish, crazy and nonsensical."

The nomination of Hussein Aidid, who promised to follow in his father's footsteps "and eliminate all internal and external enemies," showed that the Aidid family considered Somalia to be their personal property, Ali Mahdi said.

The "interior minister" of the Aidid "government," Mohamed Qanyare Afrah, Sunday described the election of Hussein Aidid as a "gift" to his late father. (AFP)

Monsoon Season Flood and Landslide Toll Reaches 174

KATHMANDU — The Nepalese Home Ministry Monday put the toll of flood and landslide victims at 174 following heavy rains last month, but meteorologists predict the monsoon would end imminently.

The count included 111 confirmed dead and 63 reported missing in devastating floods that hit 30 of Nepal's 75 districts, a ministry official said Monday, although others put the toll at more than 210.

"Over 9,000 houses have been damaged by the landslides and floods in different districts during the month of July," the official said.

Meteorologists here expect the monsoon rains to end by mid-August.

In addition to lost lives and property, the flooding caused "severe damage to crops like corn, wheat, rice, etcetera, in the affected districts but largely in lowland tropical areas," agronomists here said.

(AFP)

Not So Mellow-Yellow

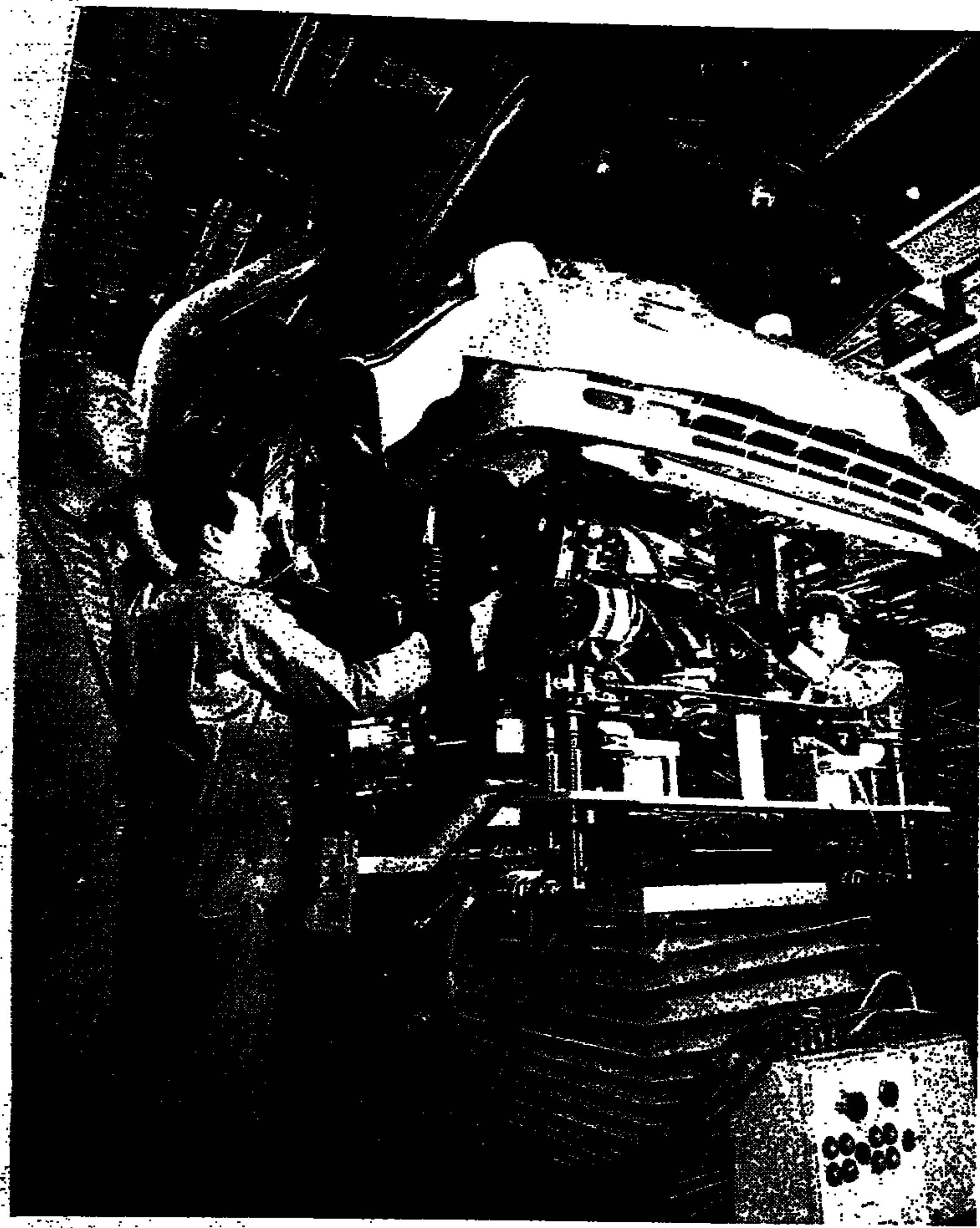
...ousands of Hutus Killed by ...urundi Army in April-July

Major Quake Near Tonga

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Australia Wants Special Treatment for Car Industry in APEC



SYDNEY — Australia's car-manufacturing states warned Monday against further tariffs cuts as the government signaled it wanted the car industry treated as a "special case" in APEC trade liberalization goals.

The warnings, from Victoria and south Australia where the vehicle industry is concentrated, followed the announcement Sunday of a wide-ranging inquiry into car industry protection.

Treasurer Peter Costello said he had asked the industry commission to conduct an inquiry and report within nine months on how the import tariff system affects the Australian vehicle industry and on options for change.

However, Industry Minister John Moore moved quickly to reassure the industry, arguing it was a special case in Australia's commitments to an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) free trade zone.

The 18 APEC economies have agreed to liberalize trade completely by 2010 for industrialized countries such as the United States, Japan and Australia, but 2020 for those given developing nation status.'

Moore said in a televised interview Sunday that Australia had in the past "torn down tariff barriers at a fairly rapid rate", far more so than had its trading partners in South East Asia and elsewhere.

"As a consequence of that in the future what I would like to see is that give-ups in tariffs in Australia are equalled by give-ups in tariffs in other countries that we are trading with and, more importantly, access to market."

He said while the government was committed to APEC's 2010 target for liberalizing trade within developed countries, a special case could be made out for the car industry based on what other countries were doing.

Victorian state premier Jeff Kennett warned that Australia's car industry would be "blown out of the water" if a review on tariffs could not give swift assurances to investors.

"I do not believe that you can move to a situation where Australia necessarily wants to be in such a position that we simply become the dumping ground of producers of cars in other parts of the world," Kennett said.

Zero tariffs by 2010 was not unacceptable if other countries around Australia were going to be at the same level, he said. Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand imposed tariffs of up to 200 percent on imported cars and up to 100 percent on car components.

"We don't want to be the only bunnies in this part of the world by moving to a position that no other country is even seeking to emulate."

South Australian Premier Dean Brown said he would argue for the maintenance of 15 percent tariffs on imported cars.

"Further reducing tariffs, thereby increasing sales of imported vehicles, would crush the domestic market, threatening the future of the whole Australian industry," Brown said.

Business Council president Ian Salmon said: "We need to be very careful that we don't actually damage the whole fabric of our industry by being overly zealous about how quickly we do adjustments to tariffs." (AFP)

Private Banks Making Their Mark in India

NEW DELHI — India's state-run banks, notorious for surly service and outdated accounting practices, are coming under pressure from computerized and customer-friendly private banks.

Private banks are starting to make their mark in India, four years after the government ended the state monopoly of the industry and opened it up to private joint ventures.

Among the private banks which have started operations are Centurion Bank, HFDC Bank, Icici Banking Corp., Global Trust Bank, State Bank of Mauritius and Ing Bank.

"These private banks have garnered total deposits worth 1.2 billion dollars in just over three years," said a banker with a state-run firm who requested anonymity. "This is an enviable record for even a government-owned bank."

The deposits of Centurion Bank, a joint venture between the Singapore-based Keppel Group and 20th Century Finance Corp., shot up more than 100 percent on a year-on-year basis to 378 million dollars in March.

The deposits of HFDC Bank, which has joined hands with Britain's National Westminster Bank, rose nearly 140 percent to 195 million dollars in the same period.

"The liberalized environment is conducive to the growth of private sector banks," said Ashish Devasar of Deutsche Bank. "The private sector banks, with their niche marketing, are becoming increasingly competitive."

Devasar said private banks were targeting India's middle-class — estimated at 100 million to 250 million people — with high rates of interest on short-term deposits and by promoting the concept of "one-stop banking."

"Interest rates of 15 to 17 percent on two-year deposits were unheard of in India," he said. "Private banks are also adding consumer-friendly schemes like car and housing loans to their portfolios."

He said private banks, unlike their state-run counterparts with their unsmiling clerks and yellowing hand-written ledgers, "purely aim to bank for the consumer."

R. Srinivasan, manager of ANZ Grindlays, said private banks, with their innovative marketing techniques, were bound to perform better than their state-run competitors.

"These new kids on the block are very focused in their activities," he said. "All their branches are computerized and have automatic teller machines.

"The customer feels wanted when one has a 24-hour banking help-line."

Srinivasan said the new private banks offered extensive product portfolios and have hired the best talents in the banking industry.

"They have carved out fast-growing niches in a sector dominated by the mass-driven nationalized banks and narrowly focused foreign banks," he said.

Paul Abraham, manager of ABN-Amro Bank, said the private banks have a much quicker reaction time than their state-run competitors.

"The new private sector banks have the freedom to turn things around fast," he said, adding that "these private banks are able to access new technology from abroad."

"We have had traditional banking outlets which cater to a need but do not provide a solution and this is where the public sector lost the initiative," Abraham said. "Private banks have honored their commitment consistently."

The new era of competition has not been all bad for India's 27 public sector banks, which account for more than 80 percent of the deposit mobilization, in that it has forced them to reform.

The changes are reflected in their bottomline. India's state-run banks posted a net profit of one billion dollars in the year to March compared with a loss of 1.3 billion dollars during the previous year.

They have begun acknowledging bad debts, adopting new capital adequacy norms, diversifying, setting up mutual funds and closing down or merging unviable units. (AFP)

Nepalese Industries Resent New Taxation Policy

KATHMANDU — Nepalese industries ranging from textile manufacturers to soapmakers have reacted strongly against new government taxes, including a 200 percent sales tax rise, and some have shut down their businesses in protest.

Nevertheless, the government has instituted its new taxation policy under the 1996/97 fiscal year budget which started July 16, setting up a showdown with industrialists.

The Nepal Soap and Vegetable Ghee Association (NSVGA) has demanded the government immediately withdraw the 200 percent sales tax rise and also reconsider custom duties on imports of industrial raw materials so Nepalese industries can compete with Indian and Chinese products.

NSVGA members have threatened to close down their industries soon if the government did not withdraw the new sales tax, which is now 15 percent.

"The closure of the Soap and Vegetable Ghee industries will make at least 10,000 people jobless, an NSVGA statement said.

Some 480 textile industries have already shut down in protest against the tax, idling 100,000 people, it said.

"And with the closure, the government will lose millions of rupees worth of revenue collection," it said.

Mahesh Lal Pradhan, president of the Nepal Textile Industries Association (NTIA), said the shutdown protest was made because the tax is "against the interest of domestic industries."

"The government should have protected those industries which provide commodities of basic necessity to the people," said Pradhan.

The Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), the main opposition in the Parliament, met Nepalese entrepreneurs last week and urged them to stage street protests if the budget is not amended soon.

Padma Jyoti Kansakar, the president of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), urged the government to cut the sales tax for Nepali industries and provide additional special privileges to textile industries.

"All parties should reach consensus for the nation's development," Kansakar said.

The sales tax scheme has also drawn complaints from the plastic, iron and steel industries, soft drink industries and others, but especially from the garment industry which provides jobs to over 160,000 people.

The government has not yet succumbed to pressure from the industrialists and opposition parties but it has indicated that changes in the sales tax proposals might be made, a Finance Ministry official said. (AFP)

Asahi Glass to Double Flat Glass Output in Czech Republic

TOKYO .197 Japan's Asahi Glass Co. Ltd. said Monday it would invest up to seven billion yen (65 million dollars) to almost double daily flat glass output at its subsidiary in the Czech Republic.

Asahi Glass officials said six billion to seven billion yen would be spent to lift daily production to 600 tons of flat glass later this year.

They said Asahi Glass would build new production lines at Gravunion Sa, a unit of its 67.5 percent owned subsidiary Graverbel Sa.

Asahi Glass's output of flat glass at Gravunion is 340 tons a day.

With the planned new production lines, daily sheet glass production at the factory will be raised to 600 tons, the largest in Eastern Europe, the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* reported on Sunday.

It said construction was scheduled to be completed by December, and the production will be marketed in Czech Republic as well as other Eastern European countries.

The project was aimed at meeting growing demand for sheet glass in the region where Japanese, European and U.S. auto and consumer electronics manufacturers are raising production, the newspaper said.

Among such companies are General Motors Corp. of the United States and Japan's Sony Corp.

Asahi Glass forecasts annual growth of sheet glass demand in the region will increase by 10 percent year-on-year. (AFP)

Malaysia Rules Out Raising Interest Rates to Cool Growth

KUALA LUMPUR — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Monday ruled out raising interest rates to stifle Malaysia's robust growth but indicated a possible increase in import duty to improve the trade balance.

"The worst thing to do is to try and stifle growth by increasing interest rates," Mahathir said at the National Convention on the Seventh Malaysia Plan — a five-year blueprint to guide the country's socioeconomic growth through to 2000.

He said raising domestic interest rates would certainly reduce spending, but new investments, even in the core manufacturing for export area, would be reduced.

"Foreign money may flow in to take advantage of high interests," Mahathir said, indicating that such inflow could fuel inflationary pressures and hurt efforts to sustain growth.

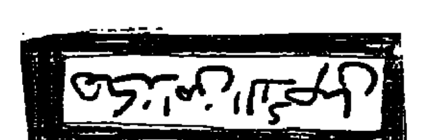
Malaysia's domestic interest rates have since late last year been steadily rising, with the benchmark three-month interbank rate rising from 6.1 percent in October last year to 7.47 percent in early July.

The three-month rate was hovering at 7.37 percent Monday.

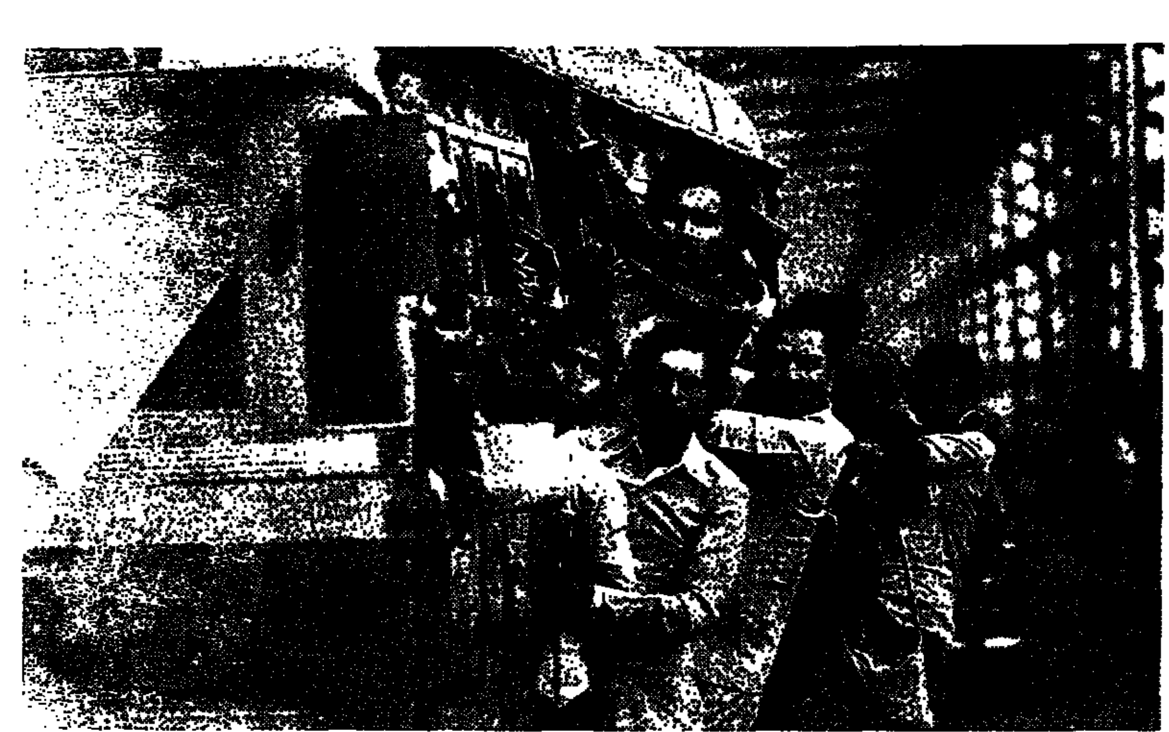
"It is far better to raise import duty if this can be done," Mahathir said, adding that such a move would be a "simple answer to reduce imports and increase exports" to improve its external balance.

Malaysia's current account deficit in 1996 was projected by a private think-tank to rise to 19.2 billion ringgit (U.S.$7.68 billion) from 17.8 billion ringgit last year.

The government has blamed the persistently high deficit on rising imports of hulky equipment to fuel growth. (AFP)



Cities: Our Common Future



The Earth Summit in Rio recognized very clearly how crucial the issues of urban development are for global sustainable development. Agenda 21 highlights human settlements, especially cities and agglomerations, as priority areas for global, national and local action. In fact, many of the chapters of this global action program deal with urban issues in implicit or explicit ways.

The issue is not just urban planning or the spatial design of our cities. It is just as much urban life-styles, production and consumption patterns, mobility and transportation systems. The internal needs of urban development – for more space, more mobility, more materials and natural resources – are no longer the only yard-stick by which to measure urban progress. Urban development needs to take full account of the impacts on the ecosystems – and these impacts go far beyond the local level.

The issue is also the fight against unhealthy living conditions and urban poverty. It is nothing less than providing the basic life support for increasing numbers of urban dwellers who know that the city is their future.

The cities are our common future. The main question is how we organize agglomerations, how we govern cities to keep them as livable places. The second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) provides the opportunity for the adoption of an action program on the highest possible political level. The opportunity must be taken to translate the goal of 'sustainable settlements development' into political action. This is not an easy task. We have yet to translate the cross-cutting human settlements challenges into a convincing agenda.

The challenges are indeed both urgent and impressive. Urban growth of large cities, metropolises and even 'megacities' will continue. At the turn of the century, half of the world's population will live in cities. In the year 2025, the Earth is expected to be home to almost 100 megacities with a population of more than 5 million. Eighty of these agglomerations will be located in what we call today the developing countries.

Big cities often witness excessive and wasteful consumption of water, energy and other resources. With a lack of appropriate infrastructure and technology, these cities suffer from widespread pollution of air and water, even contamination of soil and food. Health conditions in developing country cities are often far below decent standards. Even in prosperous countries, many health disorders are related to specific influences from an urban environment.

The Social Summit in Copenhagen once again highlighted the importance of social issues for sustainable development. In many cities of the world, the absence of well-coordinated urban and regional planning contributes to economic and social deprivation, loss of community, social segregation and other negative urban trends, which in turn contribute to social diseases like crime, alcohol abuse and drug problems as well as to psychological disorders.

For progress towards sustainable cities, three areas of action are of prime importance:

* First, we need a modern infrastructure for environmental and health protection. Drinking water supply, wastewater treatment, waste disposal and remediation technologies are essential for adequate urban living conditions. Millions of people in developing countries do no even have access to the most basic life-support systems.

* Secondly, urban production and consumption patterns, often linked with highly mobile and energy-intensive urban life-styles, need to be adjusted to the needs of resource protection. It is obvious that we cannot count on modern technology alone if we want to solve these problems. More attention has to be paid to strategies for product recycling and the product responsibility of manufacturers. Changes in behavior patterns related to mobility, energy use and leisure activities need to be encouraged.

* Thirdly, the internal structure of the cities, and in particular of the large agglomerations, needs to be examined. When growing cities lack a focus on existing or new centers, when they 'dissolve' into the countryside, creating vast suburbs where people have to use car when they want to buy bread, the result will be a very unsustainable physical structure. Much of the energy consumption in transportation is the result of the settlement structure and of ill-advised planning policies. In the search for a sustainable land use pattern, we come to rediscover the wisdom of traditional urban design which has contributed so much to urban vitality and the community spirit. At the same time, a concentration of settlements around well-equipped centers can help preserve the open space which is necessary for an environmentally sound and healthy region. In looking for what makes urban neighborhoods vital, attractive and socially stable, a healthy mixture of urban functions is seen to be a key element.

The future of humanity will be shaped largely by urban conditions. The quality of life for generations to come – and the chance to solve conflict within nations and between them – will depend on whether or not governments find ways of coping with accelerating urban growth, and whether or not local authorities succeed in combating pollution, limiting automobile traffic, and securing basic health and social needs.

There will be no road back to a world where the majority lived in the countryside.

The city as such cannot be blamed for the conditions which we find wanting and often appalling. There will be no road back to a preindustrial world, where the majority lived in the countryside in harmony with nature. We have to take urban growth as a chance for sustainable development. Urban settlements hold a promise for sustainable human development and for the protection of the world's natural resources through their ability to support large numbers of people in a limited space and with a high degree of technical and economic efficiency. We have yet to recognize fully this tremendous potential for the 'ecological efficiency' of cities, combined with economic and social efficiency, and we have to make use of this potential. There is no other choice in the face of rapid population growth, in a world in which the population grows by 280,000 people per day. The task is to organize large urban areas in such a way that allows for efficient provision and management of housing, job opportunities, commerce and trade, mobility and leisure.

Rio Follow-Up

The industrialized countries have to recognize that their urban life-styles, their patterns of production and consumption are an important part of the global environmental problem. It is one of the important messages of Rio and its follow-up that the industrialized countries, even though their health standards are generally better, are in no way the environmental models of the world. They are, however, better at externalizing negative environmental effects to other regions, to the atmosphere, to the oceans.

The industrialized countries are in a position to provide the blueprints, the know-how and the technology for managing large conurbations in ways which provide minimal standards of health, safety and basic services. Industrialized countries cannot claim possession of higher wisdom in urban planning. Learning for sustainable urban development is not a one-way street. Many traditional local practices have proved their superiority over imported expertise. And yet, the institutional and technological capacities of industrialized countries can be an important boost to the struggling urban authorities in developing countries.

It would be a great symbol of global urban solidarity if more and more cities from industrialized countries were to form partnerships with cities from developing countries, or countries in transition, for the transfer of know-how and technology and for the exchange of experience. The vision of 'sustainable cities' is gaining more and more ground with local government institutions, with planners and architects, contractors and engineers and, most importantly, with the citizens who, in their daily lives, will make the adjustments required for a sustainable life-style. We need the power of this vision, the imagination and the talent of all these people.

Common Goals

While emphasizing the need for local action, local decision-making power and accountability, we must clarify the translocal and transnational relevance of urban development issues. It is necessary to link the various bodies and agencies which carry out important work for global sustainable development in a constructive partnership with common goals.

This decade offers an unprecedented 'window of opportunity' for starting worldwide a new approach to urban development. The Earth Summit in 1992 has brought a remarkable consensus for the need for sustainable development. HABITAT II offers the opportunity to create a new global partnership for sustainable cities. And in 1997 the nations will gather again for the special United Nations General Assembly which will be convened to assess the progress which has been made since Rio.

Let us join together to use these opportunities to bring the vision of sustainable cities closer to reality. Let us convince leaders on local, national and international levels that it is our common future which is at stake. Let us convince our fellow citizens, our neighbors and our teachers, that the goal of sustainable cities needs fresh approaches in individual behavior and in production, consumption and mobility patterns.



'Human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.' This opening paragraph from the Rio declaration expresses very well the broad and 'people-centered' approach to sustainable urban development.

(*Our Planet*)

"Di's Brother Destroyed My Family"

JOHANNESBURG – Princess Diana's brother, Earl Charles Spencer, had destroyed his family by secretly wooing his striking, former fashion designer wife, a bitter Cape Town man said in an interview published Sunday.

Don Collopy, 41, is suing Spencer for 150,000 rand ($34,000) for loss of the love and affection of his 37-year-old wife, Chantal, who has left him and their two children for the Earl.

"The earl steamrollered over our lives," Collopy told Afrikaans-language *Rapport* newspaper. "He is an arrogant man and must remember that he is not himself of royal background."

The newspaper said Collopy found a message on his telephone answering machine in which his wife and Spencer – nicknamed "Champagne Charlie" due to his penchant for champagne – expressed their love for each other.

"I love you very much," Spencer said on the tape. "You know that I don't need to look at anyone else anymore. Do you know what I mean?"

After they had made arrangements to meet when Collopy was out of town, Chantal, a former model, whispered: "I feel very happy. I am totally in love with you."

Collopy has claimed in papers before the Cape Town Supreme Court that Spencer, who has settled in Cape Town, has been surreptitiously seeing Chantal since 1994 when they met in England at cricketer Allan Lamb's birthday party.

After she returned to South Africa, the couple telephoned each other for hours at a time, he claimed.

The earl then began coming to Cape Town on business trips, using the occasion to wine and dine Chantal at expensive restaurants.

Early this year, Spencer settled in Cape Town with his wife, Victoria, and their four children.

The move, the earl said, was an attempt to rescue his rocky marriage. It had the opposite effect, however, and in March he announced he was leaving his wife.

Collopy claims that since January, Spencer and Chantal were involved in a "serious" relationship.

Suspecting his wife was having an affair, Collopy did some detective work and found that instead of going to a party at a friend's house as she said, Chantal in fact went to a Japanese restaurant with the earl.

Collopy then found the tape recording and confronted his wife. They decided to end their marriage of 13 years.

In the court papers, Collopy said he is demanding 75,000 rand ($17,000) for the "loss of the love, affection, comfort, society, consortium and services" of his wife. The other 75,000 rand ($17,000) is for "humiliation, injury to dignity and reputation, infringement of the right to privacy, and wounded self-esteem."

Giving reasons for his decision to bring the unusual court action, Collopy said that if he sued his wife for divorce, only his and her names would be made public.

"I want people to know what he (Spencer) has done," he said. "He thinks he is very powerful to go around doing just what he wants. He has destroyed my family."

Lawyer Victoria Mayer said that while damage suits of this kind are unusual, they still exist in common-law and are seen as a symbolic way for a spouse to express his or her outrage at the circumstances of a marriage breakup.

Earl Spencer has until Friday to answer the court papers that have been served on him. (AFP)

Woman Released After Five Years in Jail

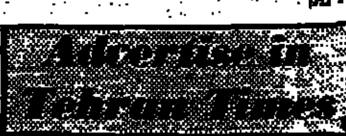
WASHINGTON – The Bangladesh government has released a 23-year old U.S. citizen jailed in the country for nearly five years, a U.S. congressman's office said.

Arrested on a drug-trafficking charge in February 1992, Eliadah McCord of Houston Texas had been sentenced to life in prison after a trial during which she claimed that a Nigerian had duped her into carrying the drugs.

"I appreciate this humanitarian gesture by the government of Bangladesh," said Richardson, a Democratic member of Congress who secured her release after a day of meetings with government officials in Bangladesh.

He had also pressed for McCord's release earlier this year when he met with high-ranking officials, including President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Earlier this year, Bangladesh's highest court rejected a judicial appeal for McCord's release, but also decided that "the case was ripe for an administrative clemency," Richardson's office said. (AFP)



PAGE 7 spectrum

China to Push Cancer-Busting

Seasick? Mask

SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE
by JUDO

China to Push Use Abroad of AIDS, Cancer-Busting Traditional Medicines

BEIJING — China is poised to launch a campaign to promote traditional medicines abroad, especially those which claim to cure cancer, AIDS and cardiovascular diseases, the China daily said Monday.

Under the scheme, dubbing the Hongyang project, the state hopes to double exports of Chinese medicines to $2 billion by 2000, and push for their acceptance in the West.

"With fewer side-effects than many Western medicines and its success rate in treating some chronic ailments like cancer, cardiovascular disease and AIDS, traditional Chinese medicine has attracted more and more foreign enthusiasts in recent years," said Jia Qian, the official in charge of the project.

But "due to differences between the theory of Western and traditional medicines, the latter are not allowed to be registered in some Western nations," said Jia.

Hongyuan will fund research to improve the quality of Chinese medicines and strengthen their brand names as well as establishing clinics abroad where their use can be publicized.

Major markets for Chinese medicines are currently Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao and Japan.

Many Chinese medicines are complex mixtures of ground herbs, minerals and animals parts boiled for several hours and taken as teas or infusions over many weeks, or applied as compresses.

The mixtures are made up for each patient individually and seek to cure the imbalance in the body's functions that cause the disease, not merely remove the symptoms.

But Chinese medicines have found it difficult to penetrate Western markets, not least because of reports of poisonings caused by contamination of base ingredients and a belief that even simple remedies use endangered animal parts.

Regular reports that herbal medicines have successfully cured Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) as well as cancer and other diseases that have flummoxed Western doctors have also been met with skepticism.

(AFP)

Seasick ? Maybe Not

Anyone who spends time boating knows the dizziness and churning stomach that can come with choppy seas. But what feels like seasickness may actually be carbon-monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Pulmonologist Neil Hampson and Scott Silvers, a medical student from the University of Rochester, N.Y., noticed that many of the people they treated for CO poisoning at Seattle's Virginia Mason Medical Center had been boating. Of the 512 cases examined over a ten-year period, 39 occurred at sea, and 25 of those patients lost consciousness. Two children not part of the study died of CO poisoning before reaching the hospital.

Typically, says Silvers, boaters had come in from the fresh air to cabins filled with odorless exhaust fumes. Only one of the boaters knew that carbon-monoxide poisoning was a possibility. Since the symptoms mimic those of seasickness or the flu, silvers suspects that many more poisonings go unnoticed. He warns that patients recovering from the immediate effects of moderate CO poisoning can suffer lingering neurological damage, such as central-nervous-system dysfunction.

Hampson and Silver recommend that recreational boaters check their heaters and exhaust systems, and install a carbon-monoxide detector.

— Laura Fraser in Health

Chinese Tea Helps Cut Cholesterol

HONG KONG — Chinese green tea is a useful weapon in reducing cholesterol and may be a key to preventing heart disease, according to a study by the University of Hong Kong.

Studies on rats at the university's Pharmacology Department showed that green tea had an active lipid-lowering ingredient which reduced cholesterol levels by about 25 percent.

Lipids are organic compounds, including fatty acids and oils, which are insoluble in water.

Pharmacology doctorate student Teddy Yang said catechin, a group of compounds contained in the tea leaves, lowered the absorption of cholesterol while promoting its excretion.

The study also showed that the effects of catechin in reducing cholesterol levels were more effective than drugs available on the market.

Yang, a doctorate student, said that fat from meat, seafood and egg yolk tended to raise cholesterol levels in the blood and liver, and that too much cholesterol in the blood could cause heart disease.

Catechin is most concentrated in non-fermented green tea, followed by Jasmine tea, and semi-fermented Oolong tea.

Japanese Green Tea also had a lipid-lowering effect, but English Tea does not since "the tea leaves are usually black tea, meaning fully-fermented" said Yang.

(AFP)

Some Antibiotics Provoke Tendinitis

WASHINGTON — Some antibiotics provoke tendinitis which can rupture the tendons, the advocacy group Public Citizen said.

Doctor Sidney Wolfe, speaking on behalf of the group Friday, said patients should be informed about the possible secondary effects on tendons that antibiotics in the fluoroquinolone group – used in particular for bladder and respiratory infections – may have.

According to the doctor, if the treatment is not stopped after the tendons become painful, notably the Achilles'tendon, they can break and require surgical intervention.

The group cited studies from France, Belgium and Britain which dealt respectively with 100, 11 and 21 cases of tendinitis linked to the medications.

Public Citizen has written to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration which is in charge of regulating medications asking that doctors be warned by letter of the risks the antibiotics pose.

Among the products the group warned about were antibiotics marketed in the United States under the name Cipro, Penetrex or Floxin.

(AFP)

Japanese Sailor Completes Solar Voyage Across Pacific

TOKYO - Japanese adventurer Kenichi Horie Monday completed the world's first solar-powered trans-Pacific voyage in a solar-powered boat, sailing into Tokyo Bay four and a half months after leaving the Ecuadorian port of Salinas.

The Suntanned 57-year-old sailor appeared in good health and spirits as his 9.5-metre (31-foot) "malts mermaid" Berthed at a seaside park.

Horie, the first man to sail solo across the Pacific in 1962, celebrated his latest successful 16,000-kilometer (9,920-mile) voyage with family and friends before telling reporters the trip was relatively smooth.

The 379-kilogram (834-pound) vessel is made from recycled aluminum equivalent to more than 20,000 drink cans. The solar cells power the ship's motors.

Horie originally intended to end his voyage on July 20, a new public holiday in Japan known as the "Day of The Sea". But problems arising from unfavourable currents and weather caused delays.

(AFP)

Thought

PEOPLE generally quarrel because they cannot argue.

Gilber Chesterton
English writer

PRAYER

Noon 13:10
Evening 20:24
Dawn (tomorrow) 4:33
Sunrise (tomorrow) 6:18

TODAY IN HISTORY

1600 - France's King Henry IV invades Duchy of Davoy in Italy.

1661 - Portuguese and Dutch sign treaty whereby Portuguese retain Brazil and Dutch keep Ceylon.

1726 - Holy Roman Empire and Russia conclude military alliance against Turkey.

1806 - Holy Roman Empire ends as Francis II formally resigns the imperial dignity and becomes Francis I, emperor of Austria.

1824 - Simon Bolivar defeats Spanish forces at Junin in Peru.

1828 - Mehemet Ali, ruler of Egypt, agrees to British demands to quit Greece.

1840 - Louis Napoleon attempts uprising at Boulogne in France but it fails and he subsequently is sentenced to life imprisonment.

1844 - French under Duc de Joinville begins hostilities against Maghreb.

1849 - Peace of Milan ends war between Sardinia and Austria.

1914 - Serbia and Montenegro declare war on Germany.

1945 - U.S. plane drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima in Japan near end of World War II.

1962 - China agrees to meeting with India to discuss border disputes.

1973 - Mistaken attack by U.S. bombers on Cambodian town of Neak long kills and wounds hundreds.

1977 - Bomb explodes in Salisbury, Rhodesia, store, killing 11 people in what is described as worst act of urban terrorism in five years of guerilla warfare.

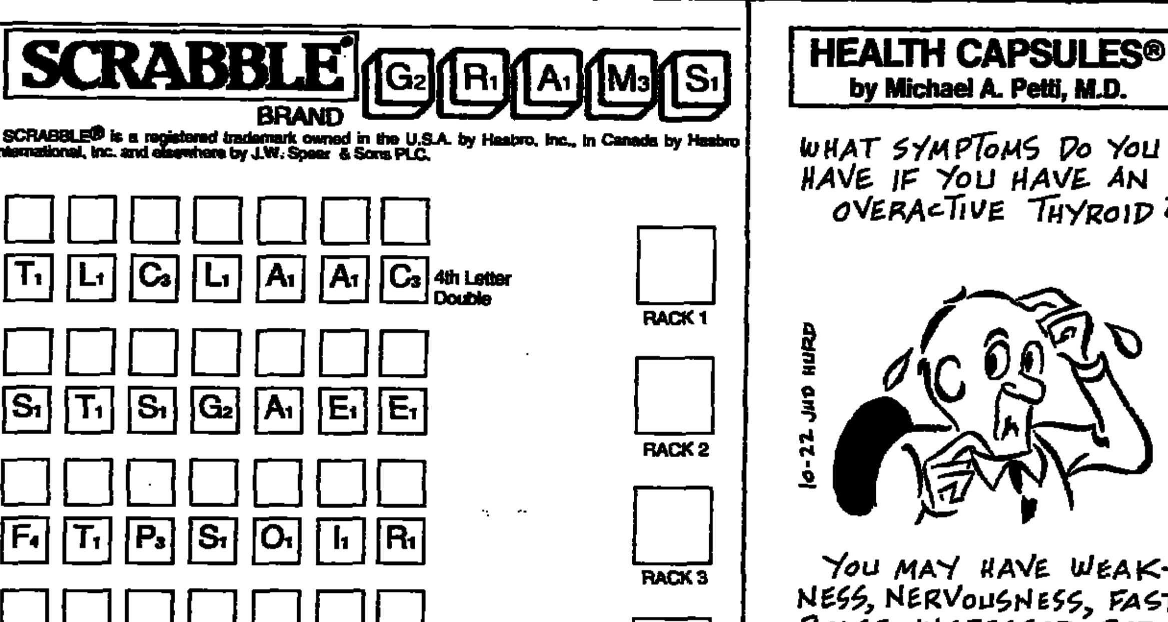
1988 - Jordan's King Hussein announces he is reshuffling his government.

1990 - Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto ousted by military after 20 months as prime minister. UN Security Council imposes economic embargo on Iraq for invading Kuwait and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd gives U.S. permission to deploy military defense force on Saudi soil.

1991 - Yugoslavia's presidency proclaims an unconditional cease-fire in Croatia.

1993 - Morihiro Hosokawa, head of reformist coalition, is elected Japanese prime minister.

1994 - Former Austrian president Kurt Waldheim is once again at the center of controversy, this time over his receipt of an award of papal knighthood.



PAR SCORE 105-115
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ___
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

12-8-94

Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

F A T T E N S	RACK 1 =	60
N A T T I E R	RACK 2 =	64
L O O F A H	RACK 3 =	36
P A R D N E R	RACK 4 =	60
PAR SCORE 140-150	JUDD'S TOTAL	220

12-7-94

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Ripley's Believe It or Not!

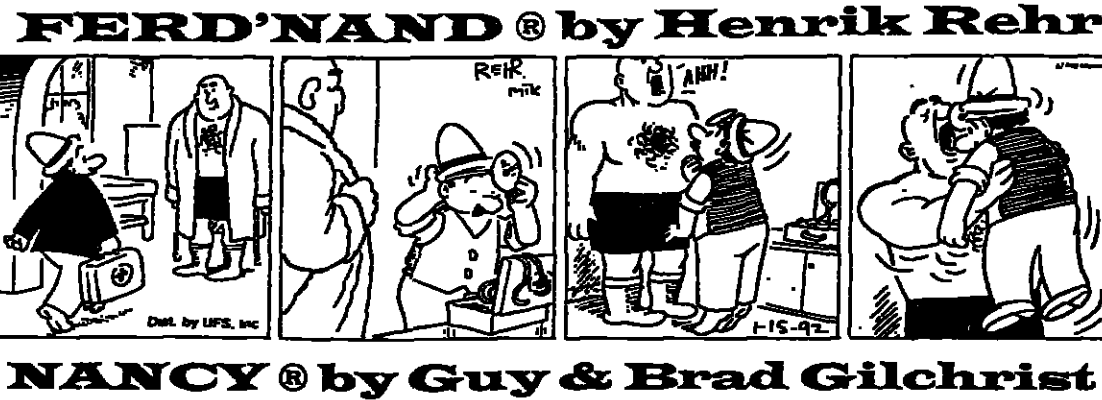
AMERICAN GOSSIP COLUMNIST WALTER WINCHELL SPOKE UP TO 200 WORDS A MINUTE DURING HIS WEEKLY RADIO BROADCASTS!
SUBMITTED BY ROB CORTISS, SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

HANS EUGEN BIRCH-JENSEN INVENTED AN EGG COUNTER THAT STRAPS ONTO THE BODY of a LAYING HEN! (1964)

IN Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, England, RENTS and DEBTS WERE ONCE PAID IN "STICKS" of 25 EELS and THE TOWN of Wisbech WAS TAXED 32,000 EELS A YEAR!

HERE'S THE RENT!

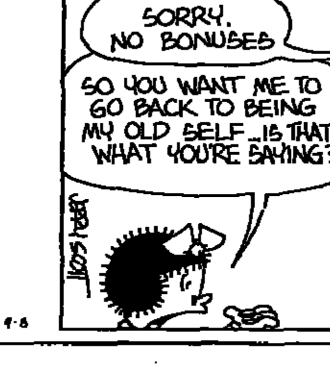
FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr

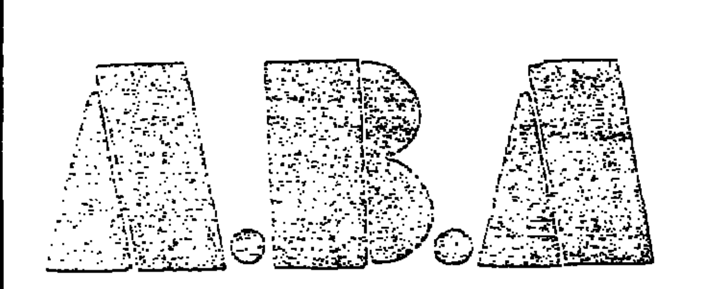


NANCY ® by Guy & Brad Gilchrist









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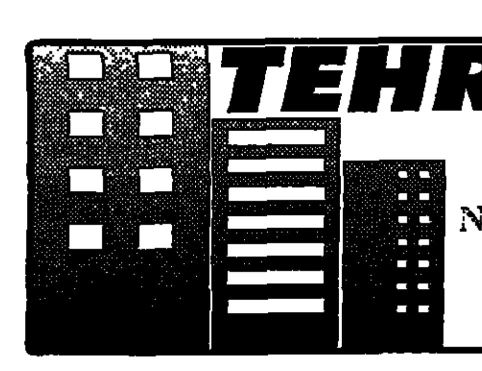
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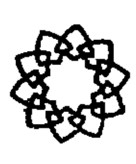


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Through organization of international conferences on Persian carpet the EPCI seeks to provide a forum where carpet scholars and experts from Iran and other countries of the world may exchange their new studies, viewpoints and suggestions on various economic, social and cultural aspects of the Persian carpet.

A cordial invitation is hereby extended to university professors, scholars, researchers, businessmen, artists, craftsmen and other individuals who are interested in and care about further enhancement of this valuable product of our country to attend the conference and contribute to its goals through their active participation.

TIME: From 9 AM to 5 PM, August 25-26, 1996.

PLACE: Conference Hall, Export Promotion Center of Iran

For registration and further information you may call The Secretariat of the Persian Carpet Conference on 2191731, 2191733, 2191729, Fax No. 2042858

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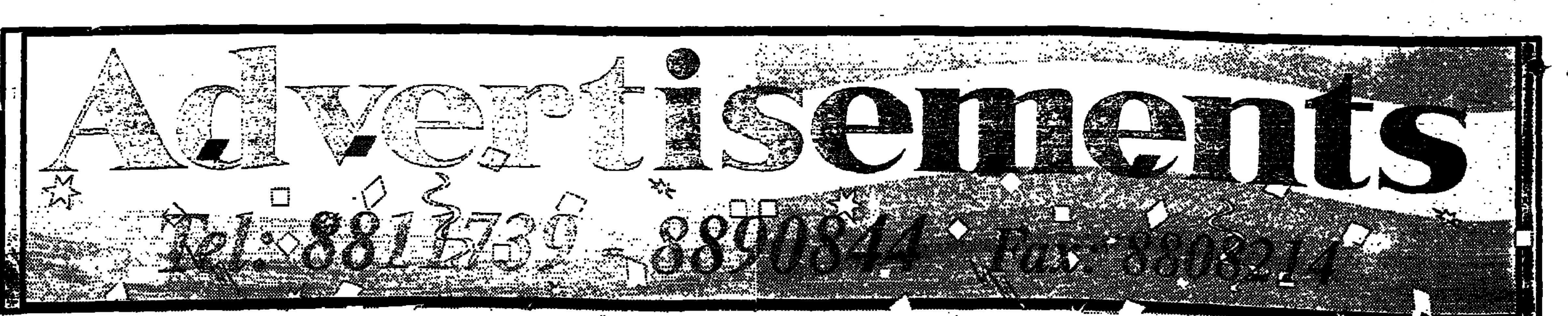
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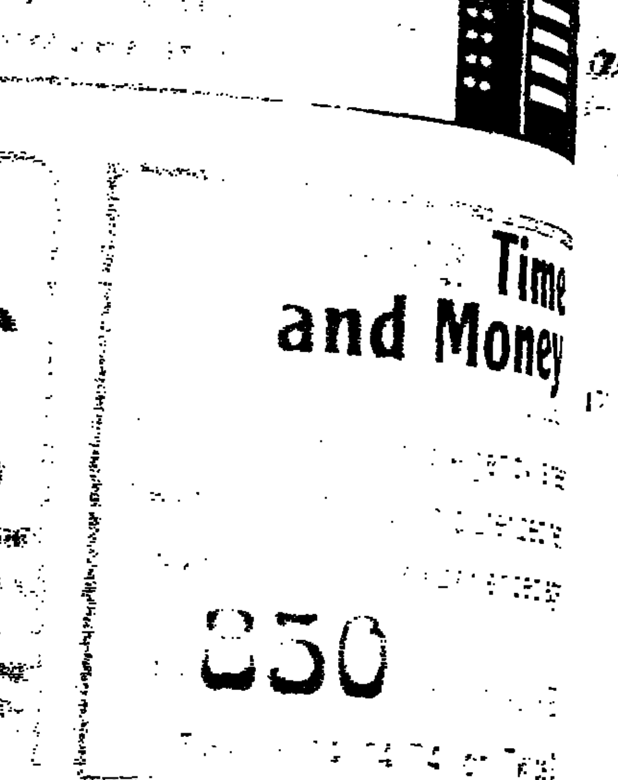
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The Republican Revolution: What Happened?

WASHINGTON — It was called the "Republican revolution:" An outspoken conservative named Newt Gingrich had seized control of Congress. The Democrats, booted after four decades of uninterrupted rule, were in disarray.

And incredibly, at the White House, President Bill Clinton was holding a news conference to insist that he was still "relevant."

What a difference a year and a half can make.

Clinton is now running so far ahead of his Republican rival in the nearing presidential election that some pundits are saying Bob Dole — former Republican Senate leader — will need an act of God to catch up.

And the Republican-controlled Congress, despite a notable burst of last-minute legislative activity last week, has failed to follow through on much of its vaunted "contract with America."

Its centerpiece, a constitutional amendment requiring balanced budgets, failed twice. Major tax reductions never made it, and despite unusually tight fiscal restraint, neither did the promised major scaleback of Washington bureaucracy.

A telling sign that things have gone awry since the heady days of the "revolution": Voters — who favored Republicans throughout 1994, the year the party took control of Congress — are now leaning slightly democratic.

A recent poll conducted by the Pew Research Center showed Democrats leading Republicans 47 to 46 percent in the congressional elections, to be held November 5 along with the presidential contest.

On the flip side, Republicans point proudly to their fervent, successful push for a sweeping overhaul of social welfare spending — which Clinton reluctantly agreed to sign, despite two previous vetoes of similar bills and vociferous opposition from his own party.

And last week, Republicans ended months of paralysis to approve several significant pieces of legislation, including major health care reform, a key environmental measure and a raise in the nation's minimum wage.

"We ... had to learn to grow and shift," Gingrich, speaker of the House of Representatives and architect of the "Republican revolution," said last week. "We do practice listening and learning and helping, so we earn the right to lead."

To be sure, a hike in the minimum wage and the major health care reform bill — both passed last week — were ideas Republicans had to learn to like. They were taken straight out of the *Democratic Strategy Book*.

That Republicans relied on their opponents' agenda to bolster their own claim of legislative prowess underscores the reverses they suffered since vowing to change the evil ways of Washington 18 months ago.

Reasons for the imploding revolution abound. New York senator Al d'Amato, himself a Republican, faulted the house leadership for having "misread" the mandate of the watershed 1994 elections, which ended democratic hegemony in Congress for the first time in 40 years.

No one ordered a revolution, he argued.

Another factor, clearly unpredictable at the time, was the rebirth of the notoriously disorganized Democratic Party.

They crafted a public-relations juggernaut that in a matter of months largely shifted the tide, effectively tarring Republicans as extremists bent on chopping popular programs such as health care for the elderly (medicare), and scaling back decades of environmental protection.

But perhaps the most significant factor was the underestimation of Bill Clinton. Republicans, betting that Clinton would back down, threatened to shut down the government if the president did not agree to their budget initiatives.

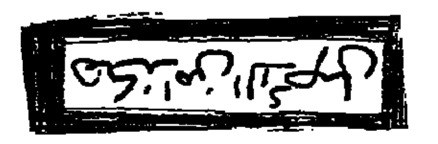
Clinton, promising to save Americans from the cruel Republican budget slashers, demurred. And much of the government, lacking legal authority to continue spending money, indeed closed its doors.

"I've got a problem," Gingrich admitted during the budget crises to Clinton's chief of staff Leon Panetta, according to the book "*Tell Newt to Shut Up.*"

"I get in those meetings and ... I melt."

"After I get out, I need two hours to detoxify," he said.

(AFP)



Modern Design Systems Unfriendly to Ecology

Our present systems of design have created a world that grows far beyond the environment's capacity to sustain life into the future, says the writer. We are in danger of creating a vast industrial machine, not for living in, but for dying in.

If we go back in the history of architecture, we see that architects always are working with two elements, mass and membrance. We have the walls of Jericho — mass — and we have tents — membranes. Ancient peoples practised the art of building with mass, constructing adobe-walled huts to anticipate the scope and direction of sunshine. They knew how thick a wall needed to be to transfer the heat of the day into the winter night, and how thick it had to be to transfer coolness into the interior in the summer.

We only have to look at the Bedouin tent to find a design that accomplishes six things at once. In the desert, temperatures often exceed 120 degrees. There is no shade, no air movement.

The black Bedouin tent, when pitched, creates a deep shade that brings one's sensible temperature down to 95 degrees. The tent has a very coarse weave, which creates a beautifully illuminated interior, having a million light fixtures. Because of the coars weave and the black surface, the hot air inside rises and is drawn through the membrane. This creates a breeze from outside that drops the sensible temperature further to 90 degrees.

When it rains, the fibers swell up and the tent gets tight as a drum. And, of course, you can roll it up and take it with you. The modern tent pales by comparison to this astonishingly elegant construct.

Our modern industrial culture, however, has adopted a design stratagem that essentially says: If brute force or massive amounts of energy do not work, you are not using enough of them. We have made glass buildings that are more about buildings than they are about people. The hope that glass would connect us to the outdoors was completely stultified by sealing buildings. This design creates stress, because people are meant to be connected with the outdoors, not trapped inside.

Le Corbusier said in the early part of this century that a house is 'a machine for living in.' What has happened is that designe.s are now creating for the machine and not for people. People talk about solar-heating buildings, even about solar-heating cathedrals. But it is not the cathedral that is asking to be heated, it is the people. To solar-heat a cathedral, one should heat people's feet, not the air 120 feet above them.



Materials, Energy and Life

There are three defining characteristics of design that we can learn from the natural world. The first characteristic is that everything we have to work with is already here — the stones, the clay, the wood, the water, the air. All materials given to us by nature are returned to the Earth without the concept of waste as we understand it. In nature, everything is cycled constantly, with all waste becoming 'food' for other living systems.

The second characteristic is that energy supporting this cycle of life comes from outside the system in the form of perpetual solar income. Nature operates on 'current income,' it does not mine or extract energy from the past, it does not use its capital reserves, and it does not borrow from the future. Natural design employs an extraordinarily economical and efficient system for creating and cycling nutrients, and modern methods of manufacturing pale in comparison.

Finally, the characteristic that sustains this system of metabolism and creation is biodiversity. Preventing living systems from running down and veering into chaos is the miraculously intricate and symbiotic relationship among millions of organisms.

As a designer of buildings and systems, I ask myself how to apply these three characteristics of living systems to my work. How do I employ the concept of 'waste equals food,' of 'current solar income,' of 'protecting biodiversity' in design?

I grew up in the Far East, and when I came to this country, I was taken aback when I realized that Americans were not people with lives, but consumers with lifestyles. When did America stop having people with lives? On television, we are referred to as consumers, not people. But we are people, with lives, and we must make and design things for people. And if I am a consumer, what can I consume? Food, juice some toothpaste. But actually, very little that is sold can be consumed. Sooner or later, almost all of it has to be thrown away. I cannot consume a television set or a VCR or a car.

I work closely with Michael Braungart, an ecological chemist from Hamburg, Germany, and we focus on three distinct product types. First, there are 'consumables' — products that, when eaten, used, or thrown away, literally turn back into dirt and become food for other living organisms. Consumables should not go into landfills, but on to the ground to restore the soil's life, health and fertility. This means that shampoo bottles should be made of beets that biodegrade in compost piles. Fabrics should safely return to the Earth without persistent toxins, mutagens, carcinogens, bioaccumulating substances, heavy metals or endocrine disrupters.

Second are products of service, also known as 'durables' — these include television sets and cars — that provide entertainment or transportation. To eliminate waste, products of service should not be sold, but licensed to the end-user. Customers may use them as long as they wish, even sell the licence to someone else, but when the end-user is finished with, say, a television, it goes back to Sony, Zenith, or Philips. It is 'food' for their manufacturing systems.

Today, you can dump a TV into the garbage can and walk away. In the process, we deposit persistent toxins throughout the planet. Products of service must continue beyond their initial product life, be owned by their manufacturers and be designed for disassembly, remanufacture and continuous reuse.

The third type of product is called 'unmarketables.' Welcome to the world of nuclear waste, dioxins and chrominum-tanned leather. Unmarketables are products or sub-components of products that on one wants and, in many cases, people do not even realize they are buying. These products must cease to be sold, and those already sold should be stored until we can figure out a safe and non-toxic way to dispose of them.



I remember when my firm was hired to design the office for an environmental group. The director said during contract negotiations, "We are worried about people getting sick from indoor air quality." We decided that it was our job to find materials that would not make people sick when placed inside a building. What we found was that those materials were not available. We had to work with manufacturers to find out what was in their products and we discovered that the entire system of building construction is essentially toxic. We still are working to develop new materials that address indoor airquality concerns.

For a New York men's clothing store, we arranged to plant 1,000 oak trees to replace the two English oaks used to panel the store. We were inspired by a famous story told by Gregory Bateson about New College in Oxford, England. It went something like this: The college had a main hall built in the early 1600s with beams 40 feet long and 2 feet thick. A committee was formed to try to find replacement trees because the beams were suffering from dry rot. If you keep in mind that a veneer from an English oak can be worth $7 a square foot, the total replacement costs for the oaks were prohibitively expensive.

A young faculty member suggested, "Why don't we ask the College Forester if some of the lands that had been given to Oxford might have enough trees to call upon?" And when they brought in the forester, he said, "We've been wondering when you would ask this question. When the present building was constructed 320 years ago, the architects specified that a grove of trees be planted and maintained to replace the beams in the ceiling when they would suffer from dry rot." Bateson's remark was, "That's the way to run a culture." Our question and hope is, "Did they replant them?"

In Frankfurt, Germany, we created a day-care center designed to be operated by the children. It contains a greenhouse roof that has multiple functions: It illuminates, heats both air and water, cools, ventilates and shelters from the rain — just like a Bedouin tent. During the design process, the engineers wanted to completely automate the building, like a machine.

The engineers asked, "What happens if the children forget to close the shades and they get too hot?" We told them the children would open a window. "What if they don't open a window?" We told them that, in that case, the children probably would close the shade. "What happens if the children don't close the shade?" We finally told them that the children would open windows and close shades whenever necessary, because children are not dead, but alive.

The children would now have 10 minutes of activity in the morning and 10 minutes of activity in the afternoon, opening and closing the windows and shades. Both the children and teachers love the idea. Because the design included solar hot-water collectors, we added a public laundry so that parents could wash clothes while waiting for their children. Because of advances in glazing, the day-care center design requires no fossil fuels for heating or cooling. Fifty years from now, when fossil fuels are scarce, there will be hot water for the community and social center, and the building will have paid back the energy 'borrowed' for construction.

The Ethics of Design

As we become aware of the ethical implications of design — not only with respect to buildings, but in every aspect of human endeavor — they reflect changes in the historical concept of who or what has rights. When you study the history of rights, you begin with the Magna Carta, which was about the rights of white, English, noble males. With the Declaration of Independence, rights were expanded to all land-owning white males. Nearly a century later, we moved to the emancipation of slaves, and during the beginning of this century, to suffrage, giving women the right to vote.

The pace picks up with the Civil Rights Act in 1964, and then in 1973, the Endangered Species Act. For the first time, the rights of other species and organisms to exist were recognized. We essentially have 'declared' that homo sapiens are part of the web of life. If Thomas Jefferson were with us today, he would most likely be calling for 'Declarations of Interdependence' that recognize that our ability to pursue wealth, health and happiness is dependent on other forms of life, that the rights of one species are linked to the rights of others and none should suffer remote tyranny.

We must face the fact that what we see across the world today is war, a war against life itself. Our present systems of design have created a world that grows far beyond the environment's capacity to sustain life into the future. The industrial idiom of design, failing to honor the principles of nature, can only violate them, producing waste and harm. If we destroy more forests, burn more garbage, drift-net more fish, burn more coal, bleach more paper, destroy more topsoil, poison more insects, build over more habitats, dam more rivers, produce more toxic and radioactive waste, we are creating a vast industrial machine, not for living in, but for dying in. It is a war that only a few more generations can survive.

We must recognize that every event and manifestation of nature is 'design.' Living within the laws of nature means expressing our human intention as an interdependent species — aware and grateful that we are at the mercy of sacred forces larger than ourselves, and obeying these laws in order to honor the sacred in each other and in all things. We must come to peace with and accept our place in the natural world.

(Third World Network Features/Earth Island Journal).

Tests to Find If BSE Contaminates Milk

LONDON — The British Agriculture Ministry is carrying out tests to make sure that "mad cow" disease cannot contaminate milk, something the government has always affirmed, the *Observer* reported recently.

It is the fifth study carried out by scientists for the government since 1990 on possible links between milk and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or mad cow disease), the *Observer* said.

The results of the tests, being carried out in a laboratory in Weybridge, south of London, will be known in October, the paper said.

The Agriculture Ministry had said in the light of previous experiments that there was no proof of any transmission of BSE through milk. But many scientists, including Doctor Harash Narang who raised the question of transmission from cow to calf, found these studies "worthless".

Narang told the *Observer*: "Although milk is perhaps a low risk for people, I have no doubt at all the risk exists... the only reason no scientific facts have yet been produced is that we do not have accurate means to measure low levels of infectivity."

Dr. Stephen Dealler, a microbiologist who first raised the possibility of transmission of BSE to humans, said: "The experiments so far have been just appalling. I would certainly expect there to be some degree of infectivity in milk, although it would be a very small amount. But you cannot take the experiments as proof that milk is not an agent."

In most of the tests carried out up to now, mice have been fed with milk from BSE-contaminated cows.

"There is a limit to the amount of milk mice can drink, even over a long period. The experiments should have used mink, which will consume as much milk as the average baby," Narang told the *Observer*.

Dealler added: "The experiment was almost completely useless, and the ministry should have known that at the time."

The *Observer* quoted an Agriculture Ministry spokesman as saying: "Depending upon the outcome, further research may be necessary, but if the findings are negative we believe that it would give a further assurance over the safety of milk. We remain of the view that milk is completely safe."

(AFP)

Abus

Illegal Imm

Headache

Abuses Against Street Children



In August 1993, to cite one example, the special rapporteur communicated with the Brazilian government concerning allegations of the exploitation and abuse of street children by law-enforcement officials. The officials were alleged to have killed eight street children and injured others in Rio de Janeiro in July 1993. The allegation followed a long list of others noted in the special rapporteur's report on Brazil submitted to the commission on human rights in 1992.

The Brazilian government responded by acknowledging the charge. "As pointed out in your communication, this incident is not an isolated case", the government said in its response. "The Brazilian Government is well aware that the killings of street children are not a new phenomenon and that certain elements of the policy may be implicated in the actions of 'death' squads." Three policemen and a fourth man were in prison awaiting trial for murder, and the commander of the fifth police corps in Rio de Janeiro, to whom the three policemen were subordinated, was dismissed from his post.

Nongovernmental organizations have played an important role in pressuring governments to respect both international law and, in many cases, similar laws in their own countries, particularly when it is clear that they have been partly or largely responsible for violations of those laws.

Human Rights Watch, a nongovernmental human rights organization with offices in Europe and the United States, has investigated numerous allegations. These include trafficking of women and girls from Nepal into India, the conditions of bonded laborers in Pakistan, many of whom are children; and the improper detention of juveniles by the criminal-justice system in Jamaica.

Halting Unlawful Jailings

In response to an earlier report on conditions in Jamaica, where juvenile offenders were being unlawfully locked up with adults, some of the children were released. Local government agencies and organizations began to explore alternatives to imprisonment for juvenile offenders, and training programs on the rights of juveniles were begun for guards.

"If you get people out of custody or get governments to change their policy", says Lois Whitman, Director of the Children's Rights Project at Human Rights Watch, "that is progress."

It was not until recently that children became a constituency in their own rights, on whose behalf a number of international organizations, government laws and human rights decrees have been created to advocate more equitable treatment for them under existing laws and for a more equitable share of resources and opportunities.

Prior to the 20th century, children were for the most part regarded as inferior and subordinate to adults, and "childhood" was a period of life that was often brief and regarded as a stage of passage to adulthood. Now, in the latter half of the century, childhood is regarded as a relatively sacred part of life among many of the more affluent. But it is still a period of great struggle and deprivation for children in most of the rest of the world. Children have been included, either directly or indirectly, in most of the nearly 80 treaties and decrees on human rights in this century. The first major step on behalf of children taken by the United Nations was the creation of UNICEF in December 1946.

A Global Pact on Children's Rights

It took until the 1990s, however, for all of the pieces to come together in the form of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1989. The Convention's 54 articles cover everything from a child's right to be free from sexual and economic exploitation to the right to his or her own opinion to the right to education, health care and economic opportunity.

By September 1995, 178 countries had ratified the Convention. A dozen more, some of which had been created since the Convention was adopted six years earlier, were considering it. As a result of this growing support, according to Ms Albenez of UNICEF, childhood is coming less widely to be seen not as "some kind of probation period before becoming an adult". Instead, she said, "the child emerges as an individual with dignity who has all the rights of a full human being." The initiative for the Convention came from the government of Poland, which



submitted a draft Convention to the Commission on Human Rights in 1978, prior to celebration of the 20th anniversary of the declaration on the rights of the child during the International Year of the Child in 1979. That led to a decade of collaboration between a small group of nongovernmental organizations including Radda Barnen of Sweden, the International Child Catholic Bureau and Defense for Children International and United Nations Human Rights experts.

After a lengthy period of careful negotiations, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted in November 1989 by a vote of the General Assembly. By September of the following year, the Convention had obtained the 20 ratifications required for its entry into force as international law. Its importance as a foundation of modern human rights law was later underscored at the 1993 world conference on Human Rights in Vienna.

(Courtesy United Nations Department of Public Information)

Illegal Immigrants Big Headache for Spain

MADRID -- As a major entry point into Europe for thousands of clandestine travelers from Africa, Spain faces an escalating problem with illegal immigration.

The new Conservative government is locked in argument with the left-wing opposition on how to tackle the issue.

Foreign Minister Abel Matutes has urged that the problem be treated as an affair of state above party politics, "because it is such a serious matter and is going to become even more so in the future." Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja warned critics of "the danger of playing with fire."

The issue boiled over when it was discovered that the authorities, acting in the greatest secrecy, had at the end of June expelled 103 Africans accused of stirring up unrest in Spain's North African enclave of Melilla.

Mayor Oreja admitted in Parliament that the operation left a lot to be desired, with the police administering tranquillizers to the deportees to obviate any incidents on the flight to their supposed countries of origin.

The human rights watchdog Amnesty International and the official Ombudsman here for their part reported that at least four requests for political asylum were not looked into. Additionally, some deportees were removed to countries which were not their native land.

Left-wing parties, trade unions and nongovernmental organizations fear there will be lots more irregular expulsions. they were taken aback by Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's blunt comment, "There was a problem, and we fixed it."

Workers with a Spanish agency for helping refugees complained that "the most senior government representatives are giving the impression that we are undergoing some sort of invasion." That could provoke xenophobia and rejection of immigrants and exiles who came here to escape hunger, political persecution or violence, the agency warned.

NGOs dealing with immigrant matters estimate that 50,000 of the country's 600,000 foreign residents are illegals. The figure is much lower than elsewhere in Europe, due apparently to Spain being regarded as a transit point by the migrants from Africa.

The majority are from the Maghreb, the Arabic name for northwest Africa taking in chiefly Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. They move at night, slipping over the border between Morocco and the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla.

From Ceuta, they take a highly risky trip across the Strait of Gibraltar, most often in makeshift craft, hoping to make landfall on the Andalusian coast. In Melilla, further away from Europe, they wait for months for visas or political asylum.

After months of calm, there has been a sudden spurt in illegal arrivals in Andalusia, the customs service reports, with 49 Moroccans arrested in the past week near Algeciras. The tally of illegals picked up after making the crossing to Andalusia last year was about 4,000, most of them Moroccans, regional officials said.

Getting a grip on irregular migrants is a priority for the Conservative government and has led to an intensification of contacts with Morocco, which lays claim to the Ceuta and Melilla enclaves.

Aznar chose Morocco for his first foreign trip after taking office in May, and Mayor Oreja followed him there last week to seek ever closer cooperation either side of the Strait of Gibraltar. *(AFP)*

Almost Two Million Face Famine in One Chinese Prefecture After Floods

BEIJING -- Almost two million people in one prefecture face famine and 380,000 of them are in desperate straits in the wake of July's devastating floods in China, an aid group said Sunday.

Some 265 villages in Liuzhou prefecture in southern Guangxi Province were "completely destroyed, as if they had been bombed," said Marcel Roux, head of mission in China for the humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF, Doctors Without Borders).

Of Liuzhou's 10 counties, nine had been hit with residents left short of food, drinking water, shelter and medicine.

Three counties -- Rongshui, Rong'an and Sanjiang -- that were home to 1.1 million people were completely devastated by floodwaters.

This area, inhabited largely by ethnic minorities, is one of the poorest in China, with an average annual income of less than 300 yuan (36.14 dollars).

Some 380,000 people in Liuzhou had lost everything -- the waters carrying away their houses and crops, according to MSF.

"The first priority is to provide help to the 200,000 inhabitants of the 265 villages wiped out by the floods," Roux said, calling for international assistance to the victims.

"These peasants can't just leave, they have to clear out their fields to try to produce a rice harvest in the next four months.

"For the moment, people are getting 300 to 500 grams (10 ounces to a pound) of rice per person per day from the government or donations from aid groups. But how long can this go on for?" Roux asked.

Medical teams are working from village to village to bring help, but often "they don't even have stethoscopes or thermometers," he said.

"Some 30 to 40 percent of the cases are diarrhea. Other major problems are fever, skin diseases and conjunctivitis," the doctor said.

So far, feared epidemics have been held at bay.

To provide immediate relief to the most desperate, MSF estimated at least 850,000 dollars was urgently needed.

Roux said 300,000 dollars was needed for plastic sheeting, if supplies are bought locally, to provide rudimentary shelter, noting that a family of five needs about 30 square meters (320 square feet).

"To build reservoirs or otherwise provide access to drinking water will require another 250,000 dollars. On top of that we need another 300,000 dollars to bring in medical and surgical kits," Roux said.

"It is equally important to maintain delivery of 500 grams (a pound) of rice each day to 200,000 people over four months -- that is 12,000 tons of rice," he said.

"And all that is only a fraction of the total need, since across the prefecture there are some 1.9 million people affected," he added.

Other regions of Guangxi were also hard hit by last month's deluge. The province is one of nine in central and southern China affected by the devastating floods.

With the monsoon season not yet over, the possibility of yet more flooding to come still looms over saturated southern China.

(AFP)

Former Vietnam War Prisoners Have More Physical Problems

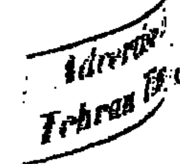
WASHINGTON -- A study of former prisoners of war in Vietnam shows they suffer from a higher rate of physical but not psychological problems than other Vietnam veterans, according to a study in the journal of the *American Medical Association.*

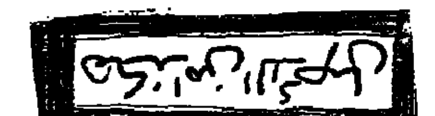
The study, done by the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego California, concluded POWs were eight times more likely to suffer from nervous system disorders, one and a half times more likely to experience joint disorders and almost twice as likely to face back problems.

The disorders were associated with solitary confinement, exposure to torture, injuries experienced during ejection from aircraft and food deprivation.

The study however differed from those of World War II POWs in that it did not find that the Vietnam POWs experienced negative mental health implications long after their imprisonment.

(AFP)





TWA Flight 800 Cockpit Chunk Retrieved: Officials

SMITHTOWN, New York — Navy teams brought up a mangled, twisted chunk of cockpit but investigators warned Sunday that despite the crucial find, the probe into the crash of TWA Flight 800 will remain painstakingly slow.

Rear Admiral Edward Kristensen said the USS grapple hauled the key piece of wreckage from the Atlantic Ocean just off Long Island, New York, overnight.

Robert Francis, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said that the one-ton chunk of wreckage was not readily identifiable and was more "spaghetti-like."

And James Kallstrom, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on-site investigation, said, "It is just a pile of things that are mashed together."

Among those who viewed the heap of twisted wires and metal was Newt Gingrich, the speaker of the House of Representatives, who traveled to Long Island Sunday to be briefed on the investigations.

Speaking at a news conference, Francis warned against expectations of swift results, saying the probe was going into the "drudgery-phase."

"Given the way the wreckage has been coming up, untangling that cockpit mass of wire and everything else, is is going to take some time, so ... we're not expecting dramatic results from today to tomorrow," he said.

But investigators remain hopeful the roughly two-meter (six-foot) high and three-meter (10-foot) wide piece of the cockpit will yield clues into what caused the jetliner to explode in midair and plunge into the Atlantic on July 17, killing all 230 people aboard. (AFP)

Indian PM Orders Probe Into Telephone-Tapping Reports

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda ordered a federal probe on Monday into reports of a telephone-tapping scandal which has threatened to undermine his fragile coalition government.

Officials speaking on condition of anonymity said that Deve Gowda had asked Joginder Singh, chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), to "find out the truth and clear up any possible doubt on the issue."

He urged the CBI, the country's premier investigative agency, to file a report within a month, they said.

Deve Gowda's action came a day after an official denial of press reports that the telephones of senior Congress (I) Party leaders, including former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, were being tapped.

Deve Gowda on Sunday told a delegation of Congress leaders headed by former Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee, whose phone was also allegedly monitored, that the newspaper reports about the alleged surveillance were false.

Added Home Secretary K. Padmanabhaiah: "Reports that certain government agencies are tapping telephones of some political leaders and others are a total fabrication.

"There is no element of truth in these motivated and mischievous reports," he said.

The *Asian Age* newspaper on Sunday said the telephones of Rao and 14 other Congress leaders close to him were being tapped by federal detectives on the orders of the Prime Minister's Office.

"All the three telephones at Rao's residence, two listed and one unlisted, are being monitored by the government," the daily said. "The telephones of other Congress leaders close to him are also being tapped."

The support of the Congress, which has 140 MPs in the 545-member Lok Sabha or Lower House of the Parliament, is crucial to the survival of the nine-party United Front government.

Congress leaders warned that any illegal phone-tapping would force the party to review its support to the coalition.

"Deve Gowda knows that without our support he cannot survive for a day," a Congress spokesman said.

The Times of India said the government suspected that Congress leaders were trying to rope in MPs from Deve Gowda's centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) to secure a majority and bring down the government.

Two senior leaders of the Janata Dal, Ramakrishna Hegde and Maneka Gandhi, who were expelled from the party a month ago for alleged "antiparty" activities, met with Rao last week. (AFP)

Posters in Support of Ex-Nazi Go Up in North Italy Town

BERGAMO, Italy — Posters in support of former SS Captain Erich Priebke, convicted by a military tribunal of taking part in the killing of 335 Italian civilians in 1944, appeared Sunday in Bergamo, northern Italy, police said.

The small posters, photocopied reproductions of a tract emblazoned with two Celtic crosses, have been put up on a monument dedicated to the memory of resistance fighters and in other places in the town.

A photograph of the former SS officer illustrates the posters, with the inscription: "Honor to comrade Priebke," and the motto: "Orders are not discussed, they are executed".

Priebke was found guilty on Thursday by a military tribunal in Rome of taking part in the so-called Ardeatine Caves massacre, carried out in reprisal for the killing of 33 German soldiers by Italian partisans.

But the court freed him because it ruled he was acting under orders, which meant the killing could not be considered a crime against humanity and so had run up against Italy's 20-year statute of limitations.

Priebke is however still in prison pending an appeal by the Italian prosecutor and possible extradition moves by Germany.

A rally to the memory of victims of the massacre is due to take place on Monday in Rome. (AFP)

President's Party Ahead in Togo by-Elections

LOME — The party of President Gnassingbe Eyadema was leading in two out of three by-elections, according to first results issued early Monday by local election commissions.

No incidents were reported as the by-elections were held on Sunday in three constituencies where fraud and violence invalidated the results of legislative polls in 1994.

The three seats at stake are in Haho, Wawa and Oti, all of which were declared carried by the opposition in the February 1994 poll, before the outcome was invalidated.

The provisional results showed Eyadema's Togolese People's Rally (RPT) was well ahead in Oti in the north and Haho in the south, and was also doing well in Wawa in the south. (AFP)

Fujimori Concedes It: Shining Path Rebels on the Comeback Trail

LIMA -- President Alberto Fujimori, after repeated pledges to preside over the end of the Maoist Shining Path, aknowledged Sunday the anti-insurgent effort was losing ground.

It was the first time in four years that Fujimori has conceded that past gains in disrupting the group's leadership have not done it in. Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman was tried for treason and jailed during Fujimori's first term.

The Shining Path has been fighting to bring down successive governments in Lima since 1980. The fighting has claimed some 30,000 lives and caused an estimated 25 billion dollars in damages.

On the heels of an offensive by more than 200 troops against the Amazon basin town of Aucayacu late Friday, Fujimori acknowledged the heavily armed, "large contingent" as evidence of the group's reorganizing.

He asked Peruvians to be patient saying they would need to be vigilant some years longer against possible rebel actions.

"This has put us much more on alert," Fujimori told Channel 2 television, adding that the military would need better coordination to combat the rebel forces. (AFP)



BOGOTA, Colombia (July 31): Wilson Contrera, 9, waits at a street intersection with some of his friends for the traffic light to turn red so he can wash car windows in downtown Bogota, Colombia. Many children of the Colombian capital work at odd jobs before and after school to help with family expenses. Wilson says he can earn up to U.S. $5 in a morning.

(AFP PHOTO)

Somalia: Basic Weapons and Khat-Chewing Militiamen

MOGADISHU — Somalia's clan wars are fought with basic weapons by khat-chewing militiamen indifferent to their own safety, but, as U.S. troops found to their cost, they are no less bloody for that.

Khat, a mild narcotic plant, can produce a sense of invulnerability that is evident in confrontations between militiamen wearing neither helmets nor flak jackets.

UN forces who arrived in this horn of Africa nation to try to restore peace and protect food convoys going to famine victims destroyed the aircraft, tanks and other heavy weapons left over from the army of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre, who was ousted in 1991 after a bloody civil war.

Clan fighting has continued ever since, with no government recognized by the outside world.

The Rahanwein announced Sunday they had recaptured the town of Hoddur, 350 kilometers (200 miles) northwest of Mogadishu, in the first fighting reported since warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid died on Thursday of wounds from a battle in south Mogadishu a week earlier.

His forces had captured Hoddur last February.

The Rahanwein were also poised for an offensive to retake the nearby town of Baidoa, the main center of the fertile Juba River valley, according to reliable sources.

The situation in Mogadishu was tense but calm Sunday after news that Aidid's faction has elected his son Hussein, 35, to succeed him.

The problem with the militias, according to retired Major General Mohamed Nur Galal, who led a first wave of uprisings against Siad Barre, is that they have no concept of defense.

"They're either attacking or retreating — very fast," he told journalists Sunday. "You can't convince them to dig trenches."

Tanks and armored cars have been replaced in the clan wars by "technicals" — pick-up trucks with heavy machine guns or similar weapons mounted on them.

"But these are very vulnerable," said Galal, and their fire is inaccurate.

He pointed out that the militiamen do not bother even to weld makeshift shields behind the guns to protect the gunners, or add armor plating around engines or cabs.

He described the destruction of the heavy weapons as "one of the few good things" the UN troops did here before pulling out in March last year, their pacification mission a failure.

That humiliation — U.S. forces had withdrawn in 1994 after being humbled by Aidid's militiamen, who dragged bodies of slain U.S. troops through the streets — has had a profound impact on peacekeeping operations around the world, with major powers now reluctant to commit soldiers without a limited mandate and a clear line of retreat.

The heaviest weapons in use now are small caliber antiaircraft guns, Galal said. There are no laser guidance systems, nightsights or other paraphernalia of a modern army.

Dome of the ack-ack guns are 37mm, others 40mm. Dome technicals have 106mm U.S.-made recoilless rifles mounted, others Soviet-made 75mm equivalents. Other weapons are 120mm mortars, 14.5mm and 12.7mm machine guns, antitank rockets, and rocket-propelled grenades.

Rifles come from a variety of sources including the former Soviet Union, the United States and South Africa.

The constantly shifting clan alliances have rough parity, informed sources say. Some have more weapons, others more men.

The clans also use landmines, even in central Mogadishu, where 150 people were killed in battles last month.

That fighting pitted Aidid's militias against members of the Abgal clan of north Mogadishu strongman Ali Mahdi Mohamed and those of Osman Hassan Ali "Atto," Aidid's former financier and fellow member of the Saad subclan of the Habr Gedir who became his bitter enemy.

Aidid is said to have been shot in the chest, stomach and leg while leading an attack on the Medina enclave of south Mogadishu.

That enclave is held by Abgals, but Aidid had penetrated to its center when he was shot, Galal said, adding wryly that having a commander-in-chief on the front line was not good military strategy.

Aidid was "impulsive," he said, "not a calculator." (AFP)

Clues to Fate of Kidnapped Chechnya Aid Workers

MOSCOW — There were no clues Sunday to the fate of two foreign aid workers kidnapped in Chechnya eight days ago, despite a reported demand for half a million-dollars ransom.

Briton Michael Pearose, 24, and Frenchman Frederic Malardeau, 35, were snatched by six gunmen in the Chechen capital Grozny on July 27, the French organization Action Against Hunger said.

Action Against Hunger representative Isabelle Lestas told AFP there were no new clues as to what had happened to the two men.

A statement by the organization in Paris said it was concentrating all its efforts on finding them and ensuring their release but would not comment any further.

It did however say it had not received any claim of responsibility nor any ransom demand.

A man claiming to be responsible for the kidnapping — and demanding a 500,000-dollar ransom — telephoned Russian news organizations on Saturday.

But Lestas said the man had not contacted her organization and that she had learnt of the ransom demand through news reports.

The man said he was calling from the southern Russian city of Krasnodar, but offered no proof for his claims.

Chechnya's combatants' command said none of its units had kidnapped the two, and that it could have been carried out by a gang that has already been blamed for several such incidents in Chechnya. (AFP)

